

ANE

Meruellous discours

Vpon the lyfe, deides, and behauiours
of Katherine de Medicis, Quene Mo-
ther : wherein are displayed the mea-
nes which scho hath practised to at-
teyne vnto the vsurping of the
Kingdome of France, and
to the bringing of the
state of the same vn-
to vtter ruyne.



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THE Gouernment of Ka- therine de Medicis Quene of France.



LYKE as it is most profitable
that the liues & deides of all
publiſt persons, Authors of
any notable frute or commo-
ditie in this world, ſhuld moſt
faithfully and diligently be
writtin aſwel to recompence
their trauellis, as alſo to be an exampill & mo-
uer of others to the imbraſing of vertew in time
to cum: euin ſo I verely ſuppois it to be wiſhed,
that the memorials of ſuch perſonis as do delite
or tak paines in doing of miſcheif, or cōmitting
of euill, ſhuld be buried in perpetuall obliuion,
thereby partly to puniſhe their wickednes and
vice, partly alſo to tak from all men (who of the
ſelues are more then ſufficiently inclyned to e-
uill) each patern of miſcheif, whoſe example they
might the ſoner frame them ſelues vnto: vpon
this

4
this occasion haue I so long refrained from publishing the detestable doings of Katherine de Medicis, at this present vsurping the Name and Authoritie of Regent of our miserable Kingdome of France, as of one who is an assured patern in her publick actions, of all kynde of cruell tyrannie, but in her priuate dealinges, of all sortes of vice & wickednes, hereupon I say I haue somewhat douted to soile my handes in such villanous and fylthie mater: Howbeit finally with my self considering that she yet liueth, and not only liueth, but also ruleth all thinges according vnto those passions which do gouerne her selfe, yea, and now vnder a title presumptuously vsurped, will keip vs in subiection and continew her accustomed whipping and tormentinge of vs, without that any of vs sheweth semblant of feiling the same, much lyke as if with her enforced drinks she had bewitched vs and transformed vs into the shappes and conditions of brute beastes, or rather depriued vs of our senses: by this consideration am I constrained leauing all doutes to binde my self to set my hand vnto this worke, although vnwillingly, to the end to open vnto euerie mannis view, what she is who keipeth vs in her clawes, also by her former deidis to let them know what heirafter we may luke for, vnles our selues do procure some meanes of our owen delyuerance from the same. I do not heerein pretend (as God is my witnes) simply for to speik any euill of her person, but do plainly go about to restrayne her frō doing of vs any more harme. I will in no wyse blason her conditions, but onely do intend to giue all men warning of
such

Such her vniustice, wronges and iniuries, as day-
lie she exerciseth throughout this Kingdome. I
purpose not to seik any reuenge against her (as
how simple a reuenge this wer for her so many-
folde mischeifes committed against vs) for my
desire is, but to preuent such finall vengeance, as
of long tyme she hath prepared against all good
men, inhabiting our countrie, whome in hart she
accuseth not, bot of Innocencie: she hateth not,
but for their vertew, neither perseweth, but for
their earnest good will towardis the common
welth: wherefore I do now intend to begin, with
her nature, countrie and originall, imitating the
Poeticall phrased, that in the soyle nature lyeth
hidden.

¶ First Katherine de Medicis is a Florentyne,
wherein is to be considered, that as among all na-
tiones, in craft and subtilitie Italy beareth the
Name, so in Italy Tuscan, and in Tuscan Flo-
rence excelleth, as all common proverbes & wry-
ters do testifie: And at what tyme soeuer this
detestable craft of deceit or fraude taketh rite in
any person destitute of conscience (whereof this
Nation for the most part, is not greatly stoared) I
will leaue vnto yow to think what number and
diuersitie of mischeifes of that partie we may at-
tend. Well to proceed, she is of the famely of
the Medicis. This famely hauing long lurked
at Florence vnder the bondage and seruitude of
the people, being in small reputation, and becaus
of the vilenes thereof vnknown, did begin so-
what to appeare openly vnder the habite of a
collyer, who had attayned vnto some welth. This
man in processe of tyme, brought forth a Sonne;

The disce-
and origin-
of katherin
de Medicis.

who in tyme became a Phisition, of which sciēce he tūke bothe surname and armes, therein imitating the order which among men of occupations is vntill our tyme retayned, that is, in their markes or armes to place the principall tooles requyred in their Arte, as the Masons, a Hammer or a Trowell, the Taylors a paire of Sheares or suche lyke, and so of all others: After the same maner I say, our man tūke for his Armes, fīue pilles, an odde number, according as the Phisitions do commonly ordeyne, and this deuise of odnes, notwithstanding that by reason of distinction of families of that stocke deriued, the same number was not alwayes obserued, yet did (I say) this deuise of odnes for a long tyme continew: He also to the end to leaue vnto his posteritie a memoriall, that by his Arte he was become famous, tūke vpon him the surname de Medicis in the plurall number after the Italian maner, whiche vntill this day they do retayne. To be brieft, peruse all the histories of Florence from the beginning, yet shall yow finde no mention of this family, vntill of lait dayes, notwithstanding that they wryting of the partialities and deuisions in the Cietie, wanted no occasion to display it, although they haue named all suche families & kinreds, as were either Noble or in any wise notable, and therefore forced to follow either the one parte, either the other: Boceace also in his recitall of the principall and almost all the races of Florence, maketh no mention of the same, for to be plaine, the first tyme that euer any of the same stocke attayned to any degre of office in the common welth, was at such tyme as one Siluester became

became Captaine of the cōmunaltie against the Senators or Noble men, but afterward by Banques & vsurie it became welthie: through welth it corrupted the people, with corruptiō it became Maistres of the Cietie, in which Maistreship it sought nothing but the ruting out of the moſte auncient and Renowned famelyes, as euery Florentine doeth knowe, and all Historiographers moſt plainly do teſtifie: Finally through theſe ſuche darcke and vnlawfull meanes, it attained vnto the tyrannie, wherein it increased ſo wonderfully, that the Duke of Florence late deceased, who at his first entrance into the administration of the ſaid Cietie, was contented with twelſe thousand Duckates by yeare for his enterteynement and maintenance, at the tyme of his deceis, through his ſubtrill sleighes and politicke inuētions, encroched yearely twelſe hundreth thousand, being alſo therein ſupported and ayded by his fortresses and garniſons of ſtrangers brought in, only to brydill and reſtraine his owen Citizēs: Thus is it euident that ſhe is diſcended of a baſe progenie, and therefore according vnto the olde prouerbe: If the Maſtiſe neuer loued the Grayhound, then let neuer the Nobilitie of France attend from Katherine de Medicis no other thing, then the abaffing, deminiſhing and vter ruting out of the ſame, in caſe ſhe be permitted long to rule and gouerne after her owen pleaſure.

The Florentines for the moſt parte, as all men do affirme with whome they do continually traficke, as ſuch as will mak but ſmall account of their conſciences: they will outwardly pretend Religion, meaning nothing leſ: they do enuy.

A. iii.

diſdaine.

disdaine, and mortally hate all suche as either in vertew, Nobilitie, or any other good qualitie, do exceed them, but moſte eſpecially, all thoſe to whome in any reſpect they are bound or beholding, notwithstanding that in outward apperance they will ſeme affable vnto all men. Of all theſe good qualities aforenamed, the whole famely of de Medicis do retayne a Quinteſſence, very well remarked by all Hiſtoriographers of our tyme, notwithstanding their both fauourable & feirful wrytinges: Beſides all theſe, they are alſo more particularly noted of a certaine prodigalitie of other mens goods, which without all reaſon they giue vnto vnworthie perſons and ſuch as are of no calling: In moſt fylthie and beaſtly whoredomes and lechery they do excell: Depe diſſimulation is naturally ruted in them: and in the execution of all kynde of treaſons they be moſte ready. For prooſe of theſe good conditions, I mynde not here to ſearch out the darcke memories of the moſte auncient of this race, but am content to ſpeak only of thoſe who haue bene moſt renowned, whoſe memoriall is yet of freſhe remembrance.

Cofme and Laurence de Medicis were greatly commended for their liberalitie toward the people, and yet practiſed to tiranyſe their countrie, & vſed their liberalitie but as a bayte wherewith to take that fiſhe which afterward they purpoſed to deuour: It can not then be termed a vertew, for whatſoeuer action is done to an other end, or whatſoeuer any man doeth in other reſpectes, or hauing relation to any wicked purpoſe, it preſentlie loſeth the name of vertew: This falſe pretence
and

and forged coyne did the people by lytill & lytill
 finell out, howbeit to late to take any order for
 redresse in the same: The effect also hath plainly
 shewed whereunto this shaddow of vertew did
 tend: whosoever therefore will more plainly se
 vpon what occasion this famely doth for a tyme
 pretend honesty, may plainly persauce the same
 in considering the doinges of Leo the tenth, and
 Clement the seuint, bothe Popes and Vncles to
 our Quene Mother, who also haue greatlyest
 honoured this race, and whome in my opinion,
 I ought especially to chose for my patternes, ra-
 ther then any other, for that they haue climed
 vnto the heighest dignitie, and bene placed in the
 most eminent degre, where as euerie man might
 more plainly beholde them, and view their do-
 inges, then either among the prease of a com-
 munaltie, or among the parcialities of a Cietie.
 Marke now therefore what kynde of men they
 were, if we will beleue either Guicciardine the
 Florentine, one of the principall of their factiō,
 either els Paule Ioue Bishop of Cosme, their
 affectionate seruand, who as they may beleue,
 aswell for honour and dewtie vnto the Aposto-
 licke seat, as also for their loue toward the parti-
 es, haue in their Histories so muche as possibly
 they might, spared them.

Leo the tenth, vnto whome in nature & Physi-
 ognomy our Quene Mother is lykened and com-
 pared, before that he was created Pope, veresying
 their aphorisme, that he must pretend vertew &
 meane nothing les, shewed him self so Religi-
 ous, deuout, and holy a man, that all Christen-
 dome, accounted them selues through his Ele-
 ction

The nature
 of Leo the
 tenth.
 Paule Ioue.
 Lib. 31. & 36

He Guicciardine and Julius throw out his haill Papacye.

tion moste happy, attending partly a generall peace, partly also hoping for some particular rest, after such manyfold warres, tumultes, and spoyles, as his predeceessor Iulius the secund had in all places stirred vp: But so sone as he had atteyned vnto the Papal dignitie and was once placed in Sanct Peters Chayre, and that he knew him selfe to be gotten into the heighest degre that euer he might luke for in this world, he grewe quite out of all mens knowledge, and euerie one might plainely perceauie his subtiltie. He stirred vp debate among the Christiane Princes, feyning secreit freindship with the Empreour and the King of France, both at one tyme, and either of them being mortall enemye vnto other: He promised secreit aide to each of them at once, whereby the more to enflame and encourage them vnto mutuall battell. He caused to proclame Iubilies, and to celebrate processions, whiles in the meane tyme him selfe was plunged, euen to the throte in all kynde of pleasures and voluptuousnes: He caused to preache Croysfades against the Turkes throughout all Christendome, and all to no intent but to gadder money wherewith to enrich his Bauds, Harlots, Iesters, flatterers and suche other his hangers on: He promiset h pardons vnto whome soeuer wil contribute, and all that by his contributions may be gaddered, is presently bestowed vpon excessiue charges, vnreasonable rewards, and the maintenance of his Sister Magdalein, vnto whome he granteth all the money arysing of his Pardones throughout Germany. Hereupon saith Guicciardine, Luther take occasion to cry out against Purgatory, and to enter
into

Guicciardin
lib. 1.

Into the listes with the Pope. Our selues also haue sene what hathe since that tyme chanced throughout Christindome: He semeth verie liberal but it is of the treasure which his Predecessor Pope Iulius had collected and horded vp togidder, notwithstanding al the warres which he alwayes continewed and mainteined, that is to say, of the goodes and honoures of the Church, which he stil distributeth only vnto his Kinsfolks and Florentine seruandis and freindis: It is Sanct Peters patrimonie which he stil destroyeth with his petty bribes and such other his grauntis as daylie he augmenteth and confirmeth vnto them: It is money dowbly extracted of al Beneficial expeditiounis throughout Christindome, which is bestowed vpon the enriching of a few persons vnto whome he hath wholly vowed himself. In the meane tyme he is the caus of murmures and dissencion in the Church, which presently doth and stil shal repent and smart for the same: He of a long tyme hath impouerished the Clergy: He hath so morgaged the Ecclesiasticall liuinges in Italy, that his Successor findeth nothing to tak vnto, wherof the prouerby yet remaineth, that he continewed Pope long after his decreis, to be breif, through buylding some goodly Piller, or enriching some new Portal, he destroyeth the whole buylding. Let vs therefore now proceed vnto Clement the seuint, another of our Katherins Vncles.

Guicciardin.
lib. 14.
Paule Ione.
lib. 26. about
the beginning.

Guicciardin.
lib. 14.

This man was created Cardinal contrary vnto the Decreis of holy Church which do exclude all bastardis: Then was he by bying with money and fair promys the voyce of the Parlour, created Pope,

The ryng
vp of Clement the 7.
Guicciardin.
lib. 12. & 13.

ted Pope, albeit before tyme vntill this point he had reasonably played his part. Heirin may yow behold how their owen seruandis, being by the treuth forced, do set them out vnto vs.

The Heretic
of Clement
the 7.

Paule Ioue.
lib. 30.

Paule Ioue.
lib. 29.

The nature
of Clement
the 7.

This Pope at euery word spak of making by a common consent, a generall warre againt the Turke, and yet neuertheles continually either moued, either nurished warre among the Christians, coasting sometyne one, sometyne another Prince, and many tymes bothe of them at once, the easelier to intertayne them: He spak of persewing Heretykes, and yet him self in Rome was not ashamed to procure disputacions amonge sundrie Philosophers, gaddered out of all those borders, concerning the Immortalitie of the soul, neither feared he to affirme that he coulde neuer beleue it to be Immortall. He motioned confederacies betuix the Emperour and the King of France, with other Christian Princes, and neuertheles accounted it folly to keepe promise without profite, by which meanes say they, he obtained the rewarde of periured persons, that is, that whatsoeuer he promised, yea euin in full intent to performe, yet wold no man beleue him: This appeared in all such dealingis as he had among most Princes in Christindome: It might also be perceiued in such his priuate reuenges as he executed in Florence, after that he had recouered it: For he put to deith all the cheifest and most notable persons, contrary to the expres wordes of the parle. Comming afterward to descriue his nature, thus they wryte of him. He delited much in dissimulation: he was familiar with none, but such as satisfied or wer of some counsell in his
greate

greatest secretis (These wordes ar plaine aneuch
 to be vnderstād without terming things by their
 proper names) and those persons did he without
 shame, respect, or any regard at all to aduance
 vnto the heighest dignities and cheifest honou-
 res, and vnreasonably enriche: But as for honest
 persons, men of estimation or honour (mark the
 very nature of his niece) those did he in outward
 countenance interteyne with fair wordes, but in
 hart, as the effect might be gaddered, he abhor-
 red and haited them, and principally so many of
 them as he was in any wise beholding or boundin
 vnto, therein resembling the euill detter towar-
 dis his creditors: yea in the vice of ingratitude he
 so far excelled, that Iouius writeth that he was
 more glaid and tuke greater pleasure in that the
 Prince of Orenge, who vnto his behufe held the
 Cietie of Florence straitly beseged, was there
 slaine, then he was for the recouerie of the Cie-
 tie, or for his Election vnto the Papacy, only for
 feir least he shuld haue in recompence of his tra-
 uellis demanded his deirly beloued Niece Kathe-
 rine in Mariage, of whome to the intent thereby
 to wring out of him some seruice, he had put
 him in some hope: He dyed being suspect in all
 his dealingis amongst most of the Christiane
 Princes. He was become odious to the whole
 Court of Rome, and wonderfully haited among
 all men, in so much that notwithstanding his
 Phisition was greatly suspected to haue poyso-
 ned him, yet there was no man who in hart did
 not thank him for the same, and inwardly most
 highly commend him for this his so singular a
 benefite vnto all Christindome, and principally
 vnto

Paule Ioue
 lib. 32. in the
 same wordes

Paule Ioue
 lib. 29.

Paule Ioue
 lib. 32.
 Guicciardin
 lib. 20.

Paule 1086.
lib. 32.

Paule Foue.
lib. 36.

vnto the Cietie of Rome, which he delyttere
from so cruell a Tyrant: These be the reports o
the Vncles of our Katherine, of whome neuer
theles, I omit to reheirs the testimonies of our
most approued Historiographers, which haue
writtin of lait dayes, for those men who perso
nally knew him, may delate heirupon: In case
you demand what maner of man his Father Lau
rence de Medicis was, all men will affirme that
he was a man consumed and wasted in all maner
of villanies, whoredomes and Incestes, such a one
as was blynded with ambition, and one who wa
sted nothing but power to commit most greuous
euillis and mischeifis: Againe, inquiring what
man his Cossen Laurence de Medicis was, you
shall sone finde out his dissimulation, and after
what maner he practised his fayned freindship
the space of one whole yeare, toward Alexander
de Medicis, his neir kinsman, how he became ef
claue to all his pleasures: how he maid him self
his espy toward Strozzi, and other his enemies:
and his baude vnto all such as he lusted after, yea
euin vnto most execrable Incestes, and yet not
withstanding all these thingis, in the end how he
alluring the said Alexander home vnto his ow
hous, vnder cullour of procuring vnto him the
pleasure of a certaine fair Lady, in his owen bed,
and with his owen hand slew him.

Here haue you sene how both her native soyle,
her race and famely, and also the dealingis and
practises of her most neir Kinsfolkes, do warne
vs, and as it wer, will vs to luke for most terrible
matters at her handes.

The starres in her Natiuitie did plainly threa
ten the

then the place of her habitation : For her parents
 according to the dispositiō of that cōūtrie, being
 very curious to know her destiny, did frō all pla- Pronostica-
tions at her
byrb.
 ces thereaboutes, gadder togidder the most Re-
 nowned and skilfull Astrologers, to the end, to
 calculate her natiuitie, amōg whome there came
 one, named Basil the Mathematiciā, who before
 tyme had prognosticated vnto the late Duke of
 Florence, that a high and most excellent dignitie
 did tary for him, notwithstanding at that tyme
 there was no such likelyhood : The register or o-
 pinio of all these Astrologers agreing in one sen-
 tence is writtin after the forme of a consultation
 and might yet peradventure be recouered, the ef-
 fect whereof was, that they all by one accord did
 iudge that in case she liued, she shuld be occasion
 of great calamities, and of the final and vtter sub-
 uersion of her famely and houshold, also of the
 place whereunto she shuld be Maryed : at this
 sentence her parents wer so greatly abashed, that
 they were almost at the point to cast her furth,
 thereby to preuent, least lyke vnto Paris with di-
 uers more, she shuld bring destruction vpon her
 natieue cōūtrie, howbeit finally they determined
 euin for very pietie to nourish and bring her vp:
 Notwithstanding to the end to frustrate & mak
 voyde such inclinations as these Astrologers had
 Prognosticated, they determined neuer for to
 Mary her: But shortly after it so befell that Flo-
 rence hauing practised meanes to shake of the yoke
 of the famely of y^e Medicis was beseged by Pope
 Clement, in the yeare of our Lord 1530. for that
 he pretended to gouerne thē: Now in this tyme it
 so happened, that the former calculation which
 could

could not be so cloisly concealed as it was wished
 was reuealed by meanis of Clarice de Medicis the
 wyfe of Phillip Strozi, who being a formall Ene-
 mie vnto this race, whome she reputed as bastar-
 dis, had hard an inkling of the same, and besides
 her diuers other persons which forced not much
 of keiping it secreit: The rumour thairfoir heir-
 of being somewhat great, was sone spred into e-
 uery mannis eir, wherupon the Citizens think-
 ing it not meit that she shuld be highly maryed,
 and suspecting least she shuld be caus of the sub-
 uersion of their Cietie (which suspicion also was
 the more feared, by reason that her Vncle Cle-
 ment did specially demand that his said Niece
 Katherine shuld be vnto him restored) assembled
 heirupon a counsell to determine of hir case:
 Some thought it best to put hir in a basket, and
 then to hing hir ouer the town wallis and ram-
 piers, to the end some shot of the Canon might
 beir hir away, yea there was one Preicher who
 exhorted them so to ridde their handis of hir.
 Others thought it good to put hir in the stewis
 so sone as she shuld cum to age: An other sort
 wold that she shuld be takin from the Nunnery
 wherein she was kept and be put among the Re-
 cluses from whence she might neuer depart, ge-
 nerally with one accord thay all willed that she
 might neuer be restored vnto hir Vncle: but fi-
 nally, the sentence which in outward apperance
 semed most gentill, yet in effect the most cruell,
 was followed, which was the opinioun of cer-
 taine, who willed hir to be kept still among the
 Nunnis, vntill the end of thair warres, quhairu-
 pon she was thair reteined, vntill the Cietie yel-
 ded: with

ded: with hir had the Pope during the seige gra-
 tesified the Prince of Orenge: howbeit seing him
 self now deliuered from him, he sometyne smi-
 leth vpon Frances Sforza, Duke of Millan, on the
 Empreours behalfe; sometyne vpon one, some-
 tyme vpo an other, vntill that finally an extreme
 desire of reuenge, practised and concluded this
 vnfortunate Mariage, which happened thus.

King Frances the first of France, mislyked such
 extremitie, as the Empreour during his captiui-
 tie had vsed towards him, and besides that, was
 not content with those Artikles whereunto him
 self before his deliury did agre. Pope Clement
 also was vexed with the sacking and spoyle of
 Rome where as him self was takin prisoner, for
 as he affirmed, this interprise was not begunne
 without the consent of the Empreour, who also
 not long sithence being chosin as an vmpier, had
 adiudged the Cietie of Ferrar vnto the Duke of
 Modena; which Pope Clement pretended to per-
 sew. They both therefore wold faine be reuen-
 ged, but either of them did in part mistrust his
 owen habilitie: For the King of France had neid
 of the Popes Auctoritie, and the Pope also wated
 part of the King of Frances power. The King of
 France therefore by the Cardinals of Turnon &
 stro: Grandmonte, moued communication of a
 match to be maid betuix his secund Sone Henry
 at that tyme Duke of Orleance and Katherine
 the Popes Niece: Clement was very willing and
 desirous of the same, but it could neuer sincke in
 his mynde, that such a match could be ment in
 good earnest: Hereupon the Pope breaketh this
 matter vnto the Empreour, in whom he sayned

Gulceiardin.
 lib. 10.
 Paule Ioue.
 lib. 31.
 Mart. du Bel
 lay. lib. 4.

Mariage of
 the Queens
 Mother.

to repose assured trust, by reason of the allyance confirmed betuix them, by the Mariage of Alexander de Medicis, vnto the Empreours naturall Daughter: the Empreour answered that in case he wold but shew a countenance to hasten forward these affaires, he might then sone perceiue that this was but a mere daliance. To be breif, the Pope so earnestly vrged the King in these matters, that the Deputies wer in small tyme after sent with full Authoritie to cōtract and dispatch all these affaires, which done, the agreements wer sone passed, wherein into this Mariage of Katherine wer for hir Drowry secretly assigned vpon a vaine & pernicious hope, the Ducheries of Milan and Vrbine which the Pope wold help for to recouer, with the Cieties and Seigniories of Parma, Placentia and Modena, that he shulde adde vnto the aforesaid by meanes of other small as- surance, of which interprises we could neuer reape other commoditie in France then ruyne and destruction, and yet before the talk of this Mariage Pope Clement had by all meanes dissuaded the King from all practises tuicheing these inter- prises.

*Walselardin.
lib. 15. & 16*

The Empreour thus by his owen deuise found him self greatly deceaued, and hereupon he ge-
 The Empre- our abused. to dout least this Mariage shuld procure some alteration in Italy, wherof he sent to sollicite the Pope of his promyses, and to exhort him not to give eare vnto whatsoeuer the King of France might propone vnto him, wherunto he answered that Christindome, partly through the multiplying of the Lutherans, and partly by the reuolt of the King of England, was greatly deuyded, and therefore

*The reuolt
of the King
of England.*

therefore that vnto the vniting and knitting togidder of the same againe, the allyance and Authoritie of so great and mightie a King was vnto him most necessary, also that as for this new knot and allyance which he had made, he shulde not need to care, for that him self was desirous rather to be an Arbitre in their controuerfies & an author of peace betuix them, then a procurer or supporter of any warre, moreouer that he had giuen to France such a wyfe, as shuld soner procure trouble vnto their owen estate, then vnto any other. These his wordes he peradventure grouded vpo the predictions of his Astrologers, notwithstanding it might be that he had some relation to the nature, atwell of his whole race & famely, as also particularly of him self, and thereupon might rather this coniecture of his Niece: But howsoeuer it were, this Mariage was finally consummate at Marseyles in the yeare of our Lord 1533. wheras the Pope & the King did personally mete and se each other, howbeit Clement could neuer throughly perswade him self of this Mariage (by reason of their inequality) before that he had sene them laid togidder in bed.

The Popes
iudgen^t et of
his Niece.

The Mari-
age of Kathe-
rine de Me-
dicis consu-
mate.

The Pope
doubteth of
the Mariage.

Behold now I pray yow & mark the warnings of the heauens, the Prognostications of the Astronomers, & finally the Iudgement of the Pope hir owen Vncle, the author of this Mariage. Now is she escaped from the Cōuent, the Canō, and the Stewes, and is come very willingly to be Maryed to the Sone of a King of France. Here must we therefore consider how wel hir prophecies be commen to passe and accomplished, also whither in any respect she hath degenerated fro

B. ij.

the

the maners and conditions of hir Ancestors.

The poysoning of the Doulphin of France.

It is neidles in this place to stand vpon hir doings, during hir tender age, wherein notwithstanding hir zouth, she did shew furth most manifest and euidēt tokens of hir ambitious mind. Now therfore to the purpose: It is not vnknowē vnto all men what great and manifest presumptions were gathered againste her concerning the poisoning of the Doulphine Frances being the elder brother vnto her husbād Henry then duke of Orleance, neither is her furious enuy (which during his life time, boiled in her stomack against him, partly for his eldershippe, partly also for such his royall vertues as procured vnto him the hartly good will of the King his father and of all the nobilitie) buried in obliuion, neither also is forgotten the ielouzy which she sowed betwene the two brethren, neither yet hir familiarity which she stil vsed toward those who wer suspected for this cursed poysoning.

The murder of the Duke of Anguien.

Afterward at what time as my Lord the Duke of Anguien, by reason of his promyses grew into some reputation, how couertly was she hisemie, and what fansyes did she put in hir husband Henry then Doulphin of Frāce his head against him, by occasion of the which Cornelio di Bentiuoglia dispatched him at the Rochguien at the same tyme, that she was at the point to be repudiated, and sent home into Italy, partly becaus of hir barrennes, partly also by reatō of such manifest tokens as most plainly appeared of hir wicked nature and froward disposition, whereby she was forced to winne the Lady great Seneshall afterward Duchesse of Valenciens, to the end to in-

Katherine at the point to be repudiate

Katherine hir husbādis band.

terteyne

terteyne hir, with my Lord the Dolphine hir husband, when as also she was not ashamed to become as it were his baude, prouyded alwayes that she might thereby atteyne vnto hir ententes.

These euils were assuredly most greuous and heynous earnestes, of such mischiefes as sence she hath committed amang vs, & yet are as nothing, in respect of those that she daylie practiseth and euer haue done, since the time that she atteyned vnto the gouernment, and there it is that principally I desire all men to fixe their eyes, because that accordyng vnto the old saying, in regiment & auctoritie, each mans nature is sonest discried.

After that King Henry by reason of the deceis of Frances the first his Father, had obtained the Crowne, when as his wife Katherin had by such meanes as all men doe know gotten children, she seing hir self past all daunger of being repudiated and sent home into Italie to hir parentes, began to set foote and intrude hir self into the gouernment, and affaires of the Realme, for atteining wherunto she did, as it were, present hir seruice vnto my Lorde the Constable of France of late memory, hoping by his meanes to get in, first one foote, and then the whole body: Whereupon the said Lord notwithstanding he wer not there unto greitly affectionate, did sometime cast furth some word vnto King Henry, whereby to satisfie this womans importunate requeist, howbeit he could neuer receaue other then cold and doutfull answers, neuertheles the said Lord so prosecuted this suite, that finally the King being somewhat moued at his importunate speach, maid him answer, that he as yet knew not well that womans

The deith of
Frances the
first.

The extre-
me desire of
gouernment
of Katherine
de Medicis.

King Henry
his opinion
of his wyfe
Katherine.

nature, for, said he euen in these wordes, she is the greatest confounder of all thinges that is in this world, and who so granteth vnto hir but an entrie, she will sone get wholly in, wheras she will spoyle and bring all out of frame.

The death of
Henry the se-
cond.

Notwithstanding this the Kinges own opiniõ of hir, yet could he not so well loke vnto hir, but that during his voyage into Germany she set in foote, albeit for so short a space and with so good a bridle, that at that time the common welch did not greatly fele hir, considering also that according to ye nature of hir natieue contrie, she would in small trifles shew some prooffe of good huswifrie, to the end she might afterward attaine vnto matters of greater importance, and besides that she feared to bring men out of conceipt of hir gouernment, at the first beginning. King Henry being deceased, (whome she did not long bewaile) Frances his eldest sone came to the crowne, who greatly fauored the Lordes of Guise, onkles vnto his wife, the Quene of Scottes, in whome also he reposed all trust of his most weighty affaires: But they made no great account of Katherine de Medicis, neither granted they vnto hir any farther dealinges in the gouernment then neides they must, for said they, it is an easier matter & more conuenient for to shute the gate before hir coming in, then after hir entrie, to thrust hir out againe: Hereupon she perceauing the Princes of the blood somewhat remoued, and diuers of the Officers of the Crowne scarce well pleased, determined so much as she might to set the on a here, by meanes of this gouernment, and so to let hir self in, vnder pretence of becoming an vmpiere

In this difference.

First therefore she addressed hir self vnto the late Duchesse of Monpensier, a wyse Lady, whoe aboute all other she semed for to fauour. Vnto this good Lady did she complaine that the gouernment of the realme was taken from ye princes of the blood, who were the lawfull administrators of the same, and was now transferred vnto straungers: Also that my Lord ye duke of Momorency Constable of France and his Children were put back, yea & his neuewes of Chastillon) whose party she as the semed grety affectionate vnto) were nothing accounted of, moreouer what small auctorytie was now left vnto the officers of ye Crowne in recompence of their great seruices, yea & which was as vntollerable as the rest, what small account was mad of hir self being both wife & mother of Kinges, was plainely sene and to be breife, she termed the gouernment of the Lordes of Guise in expresse Wordes no other then a tyrannous vsurpation and entry vnto the possession of the Crown, vnder coulor of successiō in the right and title of Charlemaigne with the destruction of the greatest men, and extinguishing of those which were in cheifest authority. Thus semed she to haue bene set on by some earnest zeale vnto the common welth: she knew also that the dutchesse of Monpensier did greatly fauour the Lutherans opinions, for that toward ye end of the reigne of King Héry they had detected a great nōber of that sect in France who semed to be supported by some of the princes of the blude, towards whome she wold now seme to mislike of such rygors as wer vsed against the: she desyred

Katherine
the princi-
pall original
of the tumul-
tes of Ame-
boyle.

The Luther-
rance suppor-
ted by some
Princes of
the blood.

to heir the principles of their Religion: she is very earnest to be instructed in their opiniōs: she commendeth hir self vnto their Consistories, and finally she promyseth vnto them all ayde and fauour, as if she sought nothing so much as their aduancement.

The Dutches of Monpensier at hir instance communicated all hir sayinges vnto the King of Nauarre & vnto the Prince of Conde, she disclosed the same also vnto my late Lord the Constable, by the meanes of Charles de Marrillac Arch bishop of Vienna, not concealing it neither from many other noble Lords and vailiant gentilmē, who semed to haue some interest in the same, & therefore had caus not to omit so good an occasion, but to harken thereunto, and willingly also would haue sene so heigh an attempt and notable interprise brought vnto an good end: Neuertheles they knowing what occasion moued the Quene to enter into this deuise, considering also hir troublesome nature, subiect to procure alteration in all thingis, wold not venture at hir adwowe and vpon hir perill to medle there withal, and so shewed them selues not greatly moued with the same.

Howbeit the same of so earnest desire as she semed to haue, to fauour or support an alteration founded in so many mens cares, that finally some the concluded thereupon to tak occasion, whereof proceded the interprise of Amboyse conducted by two seuerall sortis of people. The one, of those who mislyked the gouernment, the other of Lutherans, which were not content with such extreame dealingis as wer practised against them,

Who were
partakers in
the tumultis
of Amboyse

them, but generally either of them emboulden-
ed by such fauour as they loked for at hir handis,
in case they culd by any meanes displace the Lor-
dis of Guise from all gouernment: But the issue
of this interprise was (as all men do know) very
vnfortunate vnto the attempters of the same.

She therefore seing this practise haue no better
succes, determined with hir self wholly to frame
her doinges vnto ye orders of ye Lordrs of Guise
and to accomodate hir self vnto their pleasures,
because they were so settled in the gouernment,
that they could by no meanes be displaced, and
therefore she thought it better to win their fa-
uours. She was than the first and most vehement,
that cryed out against these men, Which in hope
of hir support had hazarded them selues: She feig-
ned that she did beleue them to haue conspired
against hir owne person: She would neides be pre-
sent at their execucions therby to let all men
know what she allowed of the same: yea the great
lyer to satisfye their humors, and to please and
content their myndes by all meanes possible, she
with hir fayre wordes, so far won the Cardinall
of Bourbon, as to procure him to allure his own
brother the Prince of Conde to come vnto the
Court, where as he was immediatly committed
vnto prison: she concluded and confirmed most
secreat and strayght amitie with the Cardinall of
Lorreyne, who had chiefest dealings in al matters
It is not also vnknownen to the whole world, by
what meanes she procured the emprisonment of
the Vidam of Charters in close prison, only be-
caus he seing hir assit at the execution of those
whome hir self before had set on work, cryed out

The euil suc-
cesse causeth
hir to chāge
hir copy.

Katherine
intreteth fa-
uoure with
the house of
Guise.

The execu-
tion of the
Rebellis of
Amboyse.

The Prince
of Cōde pri-
soner.

The impri-
sonment of
the Vidā of
Chartres.

that

that she would be the destruction of this Kingdome: To be breif, she sought so many meanes to gratifie them withall, that she was nothing ashamed to propone, that it wer no reproche or iniury vnto the Royall blood of France, to permit after the first Prince of that blood, the cheifest Prince of Lorreyne to follow, after the second of France, the second of Lorreyne and so of the rest consequently, an interprise which I dare well assure my self, the Lordis of Guise wold neuer haue practised, all which hir drifts did tend only vnto the obtaining of the Regiment of our kingdome, which aboue all thingis she desired.

Heir may you behould as it semeth the whole originall & occasion of the first tumultes, which afterward became in effect the sede of the rest.

Sone after these things Frances dyed after whome succeeded his brother Charles the nynt, being betuix eleuin and twelf yeares of age, a Prince surely of him self of a good disposition, had she not practised all meanes to corrupt his tender youth. During his minoritie she attempted the Regiment, which neuertheles she much doubted of, by reson of the King of Nauarre, a man of good yeares, and the first Prince of the blood nixt vnto the Kingis brethren, who wer but Infants: for she feared least he wold tak vpō him the Regiment which in deid was his right, and that he would leaue hir no part thairin.

One thing thair was also, which caused hir the more to doubt thair of, and that was, for that she plainly perceaued him very well to agre with the Duke of Mommorency Constable of France and with his Neuwis, the Lordis of Chastillion and

Katherine
seiketh to co
pair the hous
of Lorreyne
with the
hous of Gu.
ise.

The death
of Frances the
second.

The practise
of Katherine
de Medicisto
attayne to
gouerne io
yntlie with
the King of
Nauarre.

and with others the Officers of the Crowne.

Howbeit finally she found meanes to winne him, by shewing hir self greatly affectionate vnto the Iustification and deliuerance of his brother the Prince of Conde, who all this tyme remained prisoner: she also procured the winning of ye house of Chastillion through the meanes of the duches of Monpensier: who toke paines and trauelled simply in full hope to aduance and set forwarde hir Religion, whereunto a few yearis before thay had ioyned them selues: Finally she atteyned vnto the Constables fauour by the help of his Neuewis the Lordis of Chastillion, whome then he fauoured and in most matters beleued: in so much that the King of Nauarre, partly of his owen motion, and partly through the counsell of some of his freindis (as naturally he was easy to be intreated, being peradventure more giuen vnto his owen ease then vnto any cair or regaird of the commoun welth) did sone agre and condescend vnto hir in this point, that ioyntly thay shuld togidder gouern, and dispose of the affairis of the Kingdome, namely the Quene and he by the aduise and counsell of the Princes of the blood, with other the officers of the Crowne, & the cheif counsallers of the Realme: In this partition had she assuredly won much, which all neuertheles in hir mynd semed as nothing by reason she culd beir no equalitie, but neidis would gouern wholly alone. Afterward for a while thay continewed the assemblie of the estatis, begun in the time of Frâces the secund, wherein she so wel played hir part, that she obtained hir whole purpose: Notwithstanding y^e in the particular Estatis
of the

Katherine
winneeth the
Nobilitie.

Prouinces the whole and absolute regiment was deferred vnto the King of Nauarre : and this was hir polliticke guile.

The practise
of Katherine
for to winne
the Protest-
ants where-
by she may
rule alone.

Katherines
great fauour
powards the
protestants.

The King of Nauarre secretly fauored the protestantes, of whōe at yat tyme their was in Frāce a great number, yea and those that their were, seemed in deid more then ye truth was by reason as well of the generall dispersion of them in moste partes of the realme, as also of the great number of gentlemen, who dayly ioyned them selues vnto that kind of professed religion: which she perceauing, did also secreatly tak them in a maner in to hir protection, and that so farre as they had greater recourse vnto hir, then vnto him, as vnto one of whome they reaped more support: Moreouer she gaue out openly to vnderstand, that she found not their opinions euell: she caused diuers persons who of long tyme had bene accompted Lutherans to preach before hir, as the Bishop of Valentia, and Butler, With others: She listened very attentiuely vnto y^e reading of Peter Martirs writings vpon the chiefe poyntes of religion at this tyme in controuersie, wherat sundry Catholickes began to be offended: yea which is most of all, she secretly cōmoned with diuers of the most apparant of their ministers: She read their declarations and small treatises: She willingly receaued their requests and supplications: She promised vnto them all speddy aduancement in their affaires, She recommended hir self vnto their congregations & consistories: She did caus to deliuer vnto them money, wherewithall to fetch vp ministers out of all contreyes vnto the conuocation and disputatiō at Poysie: Yea she geueth the to vnderstand

stand that she is minded to procure the King hir sonne and my Lordes hir children to be diligently entrusted in their religion: Wherefore I do now leaue vnto all assured Catholickes to Iudge and consider what an enterprise this was, seing that the Ptotestantes had at all tymes bene condemned by all Kinges hir predecessors, and had not as yet obtained any Edict wherein the fre libertie of their Religion was permitted, vnto them.

These were hir sleightes wherewithal she wonne the Prince of Conde, ye thre brethren of Chautilion and all other persons which wished for any reformatiō or change in Religion, yea she semed so earnest hearin, that they all affirmed that she had done more for them then the King of Nauarre, wherefore in all their suites and affaires, they had recourse vnto hir rather then vnto him: But in ye meane tyme she discontinued not hir wonted good countenance & smothe looks vnto all the world behind their backes, affirming vnto the catholickes, that all hir driftes and shiftes tended only vnto the auoiding of dissension and deuisions, as, to say ye truth, she forced not what Religion were established, or abolished, so that she might attein vnto hir purpose, which was, vnto the regiment.

Moreouer knowing the disposition and nature of the King of Nauar, she entertained him to hir power in all Courtlike pleasures, in so much that he crauing the fauour of one of hir Ladyis named Madamde la Rouet, hir self cōmanded the said Lady, not to refuse him of any requeist which he might mak vnto hir, but to hir power to satisfie him,

Katherine
Iulleth the
King of Na-
uar on fleip.

Katherine
obtaine the
whole Go-
uernment.

Katherine a
counterfaite
Protestant.

to the end that of him self forgetting the affaires of the Realme, he might encurre the displeasure and hatred of all men, and thus by these meanes and deuises she brought her purpose to passe.

To be brieft, she labored so sore, that notwithstanding the exceptions of diuers of the deputies of the estates, founded vpon the auctority of the Salicque law and the euill successe of the regimēt of women in this Kingdome, yet she through, as well the negligence and reachlesnes of the King of Nauarre, who condescended thereunto, as also by reason the said deputies waxed more slacke, becaus they saw how smal accompt the said king maid thereof, the whole gouernment was deferred vnto the Quene, as vnto the person who especially ought to procure the profit of the King hir sonne, and the honor of his estate, & so consequently of the whole Kingdome, according vn to the dutie of each naturall mother, The Admiral de Chastillon, & Monsieur de la Mortier had she chosin to be the speakers and motioners heir of vnto the Estates, who finally wer recompensed for their paines accordingly, euin as all others who haue done any seruice vnto the famely of de Medicis namely the one with death, the other with malice and hatred. Heir may you plainly perceauē how for hir owen priuate lucre she fauoured the Protestants, whome by hir cōtenancing she caused first to multiply in this Realme, embouldening them to preach publicly, & to cum out of such corners as before thay hid them selues in, and so to shew them selues both in Cietie and countrie, which she did not for any greater affection which she bare vnto thair Religion,

gion, then vnto any other, as since it hath manifestly appeared, but only to the end to withdraw the Protestantis from hir cōpetitor the King of Nauarre, & to say the treuth, she was the occasiō and procurer of the Ediēt of Ianuary, which permitted vnto them the fre exercise of their Religion, in the suburbes of all the cheif cities in the Kingdome, which hath bene the principall fundation of thair iustification concerning these ciuill wars: Yea and after this Ediēt, at what tyme the protestantes of Roan for theyre obedience sake, withdrew them selues into the suburbes vnto their sermons, she certified them that she misliked of this their humble submission, alledging that they shuld haue taried within the walles vnto such time as they had bene either entreated or els forced to depart, for becaus, said she, this their so great facility & lenitie might in tyme to cum, be preiudyciall vnto them.

The iustification of the Protestantes wars.

The Quene hauing now obtained the regimēt thought not that to be sufficiēt, for that she coulde not abide any cōtroulers: the late Lord the cōstable was wont somewhat to coole hir, The Lords of Guise during the reigne of Frances the secund had kept hir vnder, she must now therefore neides seke some extraordinary menes to expell them out of the counsell, which she practised thus.

The estates were greatly abashed and wounded to se so many debts as the King was runne into, considering what sums the late Kingis had exacted of their subiectes: faine would they called those to accomptes who in the aforesayde Kingis dayes had the whole affaires in their owen handes: they willingly also would haue

Katherine practise whereby to expell the Cōstable, & the Lords of Guise out of the counsell.

haue reserched such excessiue gifts as had bene granted: But for so much as therin they shuld haue to do with the mightiest, and could not procure these accomptes & researches, without greiuing and molesting the said Lord the Constable, the Lordes of Guise, and the Marshall of Sainct Andre, who during the reignes of the late Kingis had borne cheife sway and auctority, they durst not enterprise so waighy a matter without some notable support: which the Quene perceauing, she sollicitied them to mak inquisition, promising vnto them all ayd and assistance, in so reasonable a request: These hir fayre promises so farre allured them, that they purposed spedely to call to accomptes the administrators of the realme during the reygne of the Kingis afore said, yea and that before some such notable and graue persons, at the hole assembly of estates should depute, whereas also during the giuing vp of this accompt, such as should be found parties in ye same should for that tyme be excluded the counsell.

The Nobilitie called to accompt.

Katherines League against the king of Nauarre.

This in hir opinion semed a match well maid, Whereunto she maid priuy the Prince of Conde with others: she also did conclude a match with the said Prince and the Lordes of Chastillion, and with all the protestantes in France, who by reason of such fauour as she still shewe vnto them, semed wonderfully, euin in view, to multiply. Bot mark what happened: At the self same tyme their was an other match maid, which was this.

The King of Nauarre began to perceauie that during the pursuite of his loue, the Quene had almost vnhorsed him (and this was all that his counsell could beat into his head) whereby he

now

now finally began to see his owne folly and in earnest to snuffe and be greued heirat, purposing to hinder hir deuises: afore time he was for the most part gouerned by the Lordes of Chastillion, who now he disdayneth, as in part, the procurers of the Quenes gouernment, and therefore openly defieth them as his vtter enemyes: He had before tyme without caus, chased from the Court the Marshall of Sanct. Andrewes, for certayne griefes which he pretended to be done vnto him during the reigne of Francis the secund, whom now (because he saw him out of the Quenes fauour) he calleth againe and ioyneth vnto him. The Duke of Guise also during these broyles, being scarce well pleased with suche small regarde as was had of him and misliking such reckonings as now after his manifould seruices, he was called vnto, determined not to omit so fit an occasion: whereupon he with the rest of the Lordes of his familie began to put the King of Nauarre in hope of the Kingdome of Sardaigne in recompence of his Realme of Nauarre: assuring him moreouer to deale with the Pope concerning the aduowe of diuorce which he intended from his wyfe, & the to procure vnto him the Mariage of their Neice the Quene of Scottis: About the same tyme also Frances Baldwin the renowned Lawyer came vnto him who restrained him from all chaunge of Religio, whereunto he was before bent, whereby you might sone after persauie all his auncient hatred toward the famely of Guise quyte extinguished, and the Protestantes Religion vtterly abandoned. The Constable also persauing how the Protestantis daylie increased and how diuers

The league
of the seiche
Nobilitie a-
gainst Katho-
rinc.

Baldwin the
Lawyer.

sought meanes to dispatch him, determined presently to tak ordour for the same, as well by reason of such affection as he pretended to owe vnto the Church of Rome for that he was lineally descended of the first Christian King in France, as also to fortifie him self against the practises of the Quene, and thairfore he did more straightly ally him self vnto the King of Nauarre, and agreed all differences betuix him self and the Lordis of Guise. By this meanes was sone sene another match betuix the King of Nauarre, the Constable, the Lordis of Guise, and the Marshall of S. Andrewes, whereby to oppose them selues vnto the doinges and gouernment of the Quene, who went about to abasse and bring them to nought, also against the encreasing of the protestants, whom she mainteined. These matches being thus maid you might sone haue sene good sport, and practising who might first becom Maisters of Paris and of the Court. The Quene caused the Prince of Conde to draw towardes Paris accompanied with diuers gentilmen his freindis: but the Constable followed on after, who through his credite and authoritie in the Cietie, did quickly becom Maister thair of: she willed the Prince of Conde to admonish freindis to cum vnto the Court, and to remaine neir about the Kingis person: howbeit the Lordis of Guise came before them, and so kept them aloofe of: This when the Quene doth behold, she wepeth, she lamenteth: she also taketh it greuously, that the King hir Sonne & himself wer now becom prisoners vnto those, who before practised to haue stollen away and conveyed hir secund Sonne into Lorreyne: She wryeth vnto

The Constable takinge of Paris.

teth vnto the Prince of Conde to tak weapon in
 hand : she desireth him to tak charge of both the
 Mother and Children: she hartely beseicheth him
 not to permit thame to be miserably deteyned
 in prison ; with diuers other such lyke requestes
 and exhortations , which all , so far moued him,
 that finally being by hir letters authorised, he put
 him self into Orleance, he tike many townes by
 hir lamentations , and he also gaddered togidder
 his freindis , causing them to put on armour in
 all partes of the Realme: Heirby it plainly ap-
 peareth , that had it not bene by hir procuremēt,
 neither the Prince of Conde, nor yet the hous &
 famely of Chastilliō, euer wold, or els at any time
 durst, haue delt in these affaires : and yet whē she
 persaued thē to waik to release hir, & the Kingis
 presence greatly to strengthen the aduersary, lea-
 uing hir former freindis in the bryers, she quiet-
 ly framed hir self to temporise & serue the time,
 and thairfore offered to becum vmpier betuix
 both parties, howbeit in the meane tyme she dis-
 continewed not hir wounted messages vnto the
 Prince of Conde , neither desisted frō hir secreit
 letters and clois interpryis ; in termes quyte re-
 pugnant vnto hir outward speeches or publict
 letters writtin in the fauour of the Catholickes:
 She also stil desireth him for to persist in his for-
 mer dealingis , assuring him, so to perswade the
 King of this his so faithfull seruice , that during
 his lyfe he suld neuer forget the same. She war-
 neth him not to tak hould of any letter which
 either the King or hir self shall be forced to wryte
 vnto him, for that in such respectis their willis be
 with their bodyis captiuated: Yea she procedeth

Quene Mo^r
 ther occasiō
 of the ryling
 of the prince
 of Conde &
 of the Adm^r
 rall.

Katherine
fought to fle
to Orleance.

so far, as that once she was mynded to haue con-
ueyed both hir self and the King vnto Orleance,
had not Monsieur de Sarlan who now is hir cheif
steward perswaded hir vnto the contrary: Vpon
these occasions the Prince of Conde remained
steidfast in his first determination: These doings
confirmed his Authoritie, interteyned his forces,
and procured vnto him ayd both of men & mo-
ney out of Germany and other places: The ad-
wowe of these letters, testifying that he was ar-
med for the delyuerie of the King out of dāger,
and that by the Kingis expres commandement,
haue caused vs to smart, insomuch that whereas
before we might indifferently haue growen to
sum agrement and end, she hath by these deuises
now prolonged the warres, & wonderfully whet-
ted and hardned the hartis of men, one against
an other. At this point did she still remaine,
maintayning the Catholickes with good coun-
tenances, and the Protestantis with effectis, vntil
the tyme that the King of Nauarre hir competi-
tour was slaine at the seige of Roan, whose deith
was wonderful plesant vnto hir: and as nothing
is more ruted in hir hart then ambition, euin so
did his death caus hir presently to change copy.

The deith of
the King of
Nauarre.

Katherines
alteration of
Religion.

Hidderto haue you sene how good a counte-
nance she hath shewed vnto Religion, naming
hir self a Protestant, only for inuy conceaued a-
gainst the King of Nauarre: but now fall you se
hir suddanely becum als vehement a Catholicke
to spite the Prince of Conde. So long as hir cō-
petitour the King of Nauarre liued and enioyed
the Regiment, so long did she fauour his brother
the Prince of Conde against him, and so conse-
quently

quently the Protestantis, of whom he was cheif:
 But now she seeth hir self by his deith delivered
 from all feare of him, by meanes whereof, she
 may without controulment gouern the Catho-
 lickes as semeth best to hir self: Moreouer then
 that, she also persauing the Prince of Conde to
 be the nixt of the blood, & so consequently neir-
 est vnto the Regiment, fearing least he suld wax
 to strong for hir, she immediatly quareleth with
 him about gouernment: she becūmeth his vtter
 enemye, she wryteth hir letters vnto him in farre
 other style and wordes, then thre dayis before
 she had done. Whereas before she had procured
 him to tak armes in hir defence, whereby he was
 accōited as a manifest enemye vnto all the great
 princes and cheifest Lordis of the Realme, & had
 also incurred great displeasures, and was becom
 odious vnto the whole Kingdome of France, she
 now willeth him in any wile to desist from his
 purpose and intent, and commandeth him to for-
 sake these cieties which he before had taken: Als-
 o in case of his refusall of these hir commande-
 mentes, she denounceth against him open warre
 euen vnto outrance, notwithstanding that before
 hir self had bene author of his interprises and fa-
 uourer of his armes. To be breif, hir whole deu-
 ises tend only by meanes of the Catholickes, vt-
 terly to subuert his townes, and destroy his per-
 son, and so by thair mutual rencounters to spoyle
 both parties, and by ouercumming the Protestāts
 so far furth as she may to enfeblish the Catho-
 lickes.

Katherine
 against the
 Prince of
 Conde.

Queene Mo-
 ther seaketh
 to poyson
 the Prince of
 Conde.

First thairfore to dispatch the Prince of Con-
 de, she causeth him to be presented with an ap-
 ple impos-

C. iij.

ple impos-

ple im poisoned by a Millaner named maister Re-
 ne hir perfumer, which (had nor his Surgeon
 called la Grosse misdouting it by reason of the
 place from whence it came plucked it out of his
 hand and smelled vnto, whereby presently was
 procured an exceeding swelling in his whole face)
 vndoubtedly he had dispatched him: for a dog vn-
 to whome they gaue the paringes and part of the
 same with bread, dyed presently in the place: But
 she seing this deuce tak no place, continued still
 the warres against him, contrary vnto the coun-
 sell and aduice of all such Lordis and Capitaines
 as had any charge in conducting of the Armie,
 but especially of my Lord the Constable and the
 Lordis of Guise, who did in a maner smell out all
 hir determinations. At this tyme she procured
 the bloody battell of Dreux vnto the wonderful
 detriment of the whole Kingdome, wherein hir
 self only wan the feild. The Catholickes on thair
 syde lost Monsieur de Annebault, the Marshal of
 S. Andrewes, with many other gentilmen both of
 Name and fame. The Protestantis lost but few
 men of any countenance, the Realme only lost
 all those Lords and gentilmen whose deathis the
 Quene accompted vnto hir self gayne. The Ca-
 tholickes brought the Prince of Conde prisoner,
 whome thay did commit into hir handis: The
 Protestantis also tuke prisoner the Duke of Mō-
 morency, high Constable, whome aboute all o-
 ther she feared by reason of his fire and playne
 speech. Now thair remained no more but the
 Duke of Guise, of whome she wold glaidly be
 dispatched: Him therefore brought she vnto the
 siege of Orleans, wherein was general Monsieur
 de Ande-

Quene Mo-
 ther mantey-
 neth warre
 contrare the
 counsellis
 mynde.

The battaile
 of Dreux.

The Prince
 of Conde
 prisoner.

The Consta-
 ble prisoner.

de Andelot, with so valiant a crew of men, that she could not tak it, without great los of hir soul diers and Capitanis, which in deid was the principal gayne that therby she hoped of. In the meane tyme it so fell out, that an Poltrot slew the Duke of Guise in maner as all the world knoweth: of whose death whither she were more glad or sory, the brethren of this pure Lord might manifestly perceau, euin in that, that hir self culd not forbear from saying vnto the Prince of la Rochsur-yone, that by his death she had lost one of the men whome in the world she most hated: Vnto the Prince of Conde also (at that tyme hir prisoner) saying that by this mans death, the Kingdome was discharged of a great burthen, she answered thus: If the Kingdome be eased of on intollerable charge, so is my hart of more then ten: This was the recompence of all his great labours and tra- uellis: This thanks reaped he at hir handis, for losing his lyfe at hir commandement: This good will may his Children be inheritours vnto: This rewarde belongeth vnto all such as trauaill in hir affairis, the lyk wherof, we all may attend at hir handis: Glaidly wald she haue bene reuenged and vtterly ouerthrowen the Protestantis: The Admirall stopped hir: he was to strong for hir: he was cheif Gouvernour and maister of Normandy: he had payed his Reisters: and did leid them toward Orleance in full purpose to giue hir battayl: But she now had no more Capitaines left, which wer of any countenance or authoritie to withstād him, wherby it was to be feared lest she suld haue bene forced to zeild the prince of Conde, who peraduenture wald efterward haue taken vpon him the Regiment: whereupon she

The Duke
of Guise
slaine.

The recompence of the
Duke of
Guise ser-
uice.

The Admirall to strong
for Katherine

Peace con-
cluded.

Queene Mo-
thers praētis
to attaine to
hir purpose.

The Lordsof
Guise made
authors of al
the troubles.

The seige of
Newhauen.

forcasting what might in few, determined to con-
clude a peace with them, and so to attend some
more conuenient tyme and occasion to be dis-
patched of the rest. In the meane tyme, during
his imprisonment the Prince of Conde was becu
enamored of Madam Liniueil one of the Que-
nes Maydens, whome she had giuen him to passe
away his tyme, and to sport him self withall (for
ordinarily she vsed many honest praētises & de-
uises wherby to attayne vnto hir purpose and in-
tent) which notwithstanding yet was he wery of
his imprisonment and so was my Lord the Con-
stable: whereupon very suddenly she concluded
the peace, yea in such hast, that she permitted not
the Prince, tyme to comon of the same either
by letter or mouth with the Admirall, which was
expresly done, to the end that men might attri-
bute the whole occasion of all the former warres
(as already most men began to gadder thair of)
vnto the Lordis of Guise, wherby thay might
beir the whole blame thair of, seing the peace so
sone concluded after his deceis throughout the
whole Kingdome.

In this place was the fre exercise of thair Reli-
gion granted vnto the Protestants, although not
in so ample maner as by the Edict of Ianuary it
was permitted: Their rysing and taking of Ar-
mes was also iustified and aduowed, and thair
strangers payed out of the Kingis treasure:

Wheras also the Inglismen wer determined to
withould Newhauen, it was recouered by an ar-
my assembled both of Catholickes & Protestants,
whereat both the King and the Queene Mother,
and the Prince of Conde wer personally present,

every

euery man in deuoring to shew his enemy, with how good a will he intended to do his Prince seruice.

At the returne from Newhauen she caused to proclaime the King hir sonnes maioritie, who was betwene fourtene and fyftene yeares of age, notwithstanding many supposed it to be to sone, and vtterly repugnant vnto all ancient examples: But to what intent she did it, it was easie to gather: For the Prince of Conde had shewed some liklyhood that he determined to tak vpon him the gouernment, as the neirest of the blood wher unto she had opposed his brother the Cardinall of Burbon, alledgeing that notwithstanding he had takin degreis and wer beneficed in the Kirk, yet did the Regiment belong as much vnto him as to his brother. Howbeit to the end to tak frō the Prince all occasions of farther speach, from the mighty all menes to withstand hir practises, and generally, from all men all causes of requiring that the Estatis might be holden, according to the ordour takin during the Kingis minoritie, that thay suld neuer be delayed aboue from two zeiris vnto two zeiris, she (as is is said) proclaimed his maioritie, vnder cullour whereof she might still rule & gouern in his Name whom she might force and cōmand to do or say whatsoeuer vnto hir semed most conuenient: which did appeir the nixt day by such imperiall wordis as she procured him to pronounce vnto the cheifest, euin vnto the Deputies of the Estatis, wheras neuertheless, other our Kingis his predecessors, euin in thair maiorities, neuer thought or accompted thair Regimentis surely established, without the consent

King Charles maioritie proclaimed.

consent and authoritie of their principall Officers aswell of Armes as of Iustice. After this fundation layd, she proceeded on in hir buylding by seiking meanes to deminish the Authoritie of the Kingis preuie counsell by whome all notabil affairis of our estait haue vsually bene gouerned: She vsed also to hold petty counsels in the eares of two or thre persons of simple reputation, who after the maner of hir Vncle Clement she most hartely loued for hir cheif and secreitest affairis: namely with Monsieur du Peron, who not long before had bene Clark to one of the purueyers of the Campe, and sone after became master of the Kingis Warderobe, but now is created an of the Marshalls of France: whilest in the meane tyme the King did mak no accompt of any his affairis either great, either small, thairin resembling a dū person in a stage play, who serueth for nothing but to walk vpo the stage, neither speaketh more then is whispered into his eares: as in deid she was loth that thairin he suld atteine to the knowledge of any more: but rather lyk, as in his childhode at his cōming to the Crowne she permitted him, forsaking his Scholemaister, to passe away his tyme with a Top and a scurge stick (being but euill Prognostications) & to haunt nothing but Cokpits, euin so now she indeuoreth contrary vnto his disposition and nature to corrupt his zouth, causing him to be intised by baudes, whōe she placeth nixt vnto his owē person: yea hir self is not ashamed to becū his baude, lyke as she had bene vnto the King of Nauarre & the Prince of Conde, all which hir practises tended only vnto the causing of him to forget his owen affairis & to the

Queene Mothers petty counsells.

The Kinges bringing vp.

The King corrupted by baudes.

to the making of him drunken in all delytes, as
 most men do know it, and my self do in hart ab-
 hor to wryte any more of the same: For she so
 lulled him in these aforesaid pleasures, that he
 neuer came vnto counsell but by importunate
 sute of diuers, who mislyked his lewde bringing
 vp. To bring the Prince of Conde also into ob-
 loquye and sclander among his frendis, she still
 interteined him at the cost of Liniuels honour
 who thereby became great with Child: for the
 which, when the Quene set a gay fair face on the
 matter, was beginning to reprove hir: she was so
 malepart as to mak answer that herein she had
 but followed hir example and fulfilled hir comā-
 dement. My Lord Cōstable semed in a maner the
 only ouerthrower and confounder of most hir
 practises & deuises: For he hauing so long before
 borne sway, culd not now abyde to se hir govern
 all things without his aduice or opinion: much
 les wald he cōdiscend vnto most hir demands &
 requestis which highly displeased hir ambitious
 nature: yet nothing so much troubled hir mynd,
 as to se the Lordis of Chastillon the Constables
 Neuewes in his fauour, notwithstanding thair dif-
 ferēce in Religiō: Also that throughout all Frāce
 the gentilmē both Catholickes & Protestantis, &
 the cōmō people did now by menes of this peace
 greatly revnite & knit thē selues togidder again,
 daily forgetting former ennemities and rancours
 proceeding of mutual slaughters cōmitted during
 the former broyles, for in deid she feared lest yat
 by meanes of this accord & agremēt, the mighti-
 er sort wald oppose them selues against hir Regi-
 ment, through the supporte of the Nobilitie:
 Againe,

Quene Mo-
 ther seeketh
 to diffame
 the Prince
 of Conde.

The aggre-
 ment of the
 Lordes of
 Chastillon
 with the Cō-
 stable, gre-
 uous vnto
 Quene Mo-
 ther.

italiens a-
bout to take
vpon the the
ordering of
the Kingdome

The Kinges
hogtes vnto
Bayonne.

Queene Mo-
thers practi-
ces durig hir
oracy.

Againe that the meaner sort, wold by the support
of the mighty men indeuour to abolish all taxes
and impostes, which daylie she leuied for the
maintenance of hir excessiue charges, wonderful
giftis and intollerable prodigalitie, contrary vnto
the tolleration of the whole Estatis, finally that
all men in generall wald withstand the practises
of certaine Italyen Rascals, who already in words
possessed hir and wer at a point to tak vpon them
the disposing of both the King and Kingdome,
and in very deid, many began already to mur-
mure at thair dealingis: But she who was not
ignorant, how all these abuses aforenamed culd
not be redressed without sum perfite reconcilia-
tion, also that no reconsiliation culd tak place,
before that a few quiet and peaciable zeiris had
so passed ouer as that during the same, one man
might be acquainted and enured with an others
conditions: determined with hir self to trouble
this peace, which suld procure and breid all such
quyetnes as is aforesaid, and for the bringing of
hir purposes to passe, to renew the ancient qua-
rels for Religion, which otherwise wer in a ma-
ner quyte forgottin and buried in obliuion. To
bring these maters to effect she procured the king
to tak vpō him his goodly iorney vnto Bayonne,
wherin she spent infinite treasures, vnder cullour
of causing his Maiestie to visite his dominions:
but in deid hir intent was to stirre vp the most
troublesum and euill disposed persons in each
towne and prouince through the which she tra-
uailed: sum by brybes and giftis, sum with ho-
nours (for in this voyage, to that intent she cre-
ated sondry noble men) & some through a blind
zeale

zeale vnto Religion, for the ruting out of the protestantes, hir voyage also tended in part to consult with the Duke de Alba concerning the meanes how yet once againe to molest this Realme, wherein I do leaue vnto all mens iudgementis whither that so auncient, and capytall ane enemy of the Crowne of France, wold refraine from opening vnto hir, notable pretencis how to bring our whole kingdom to vtter subuersiō & decay.

Queene Mother
ther consulteth
with the Duke of
Alba.

After hir returne from Bayonne, hauing taken order in all placis as she passed for dispatch of hir affairis, she came vnto Molyns wher as intending so far forth as possible she might, to put in practise the counsell of the Duke de Alba, namely to catch the salmons before the Frogs, she dayly solicited the Admirall and Monsieur de Andilot to cum vnto the Court wheras the Prince of Conde at the same tyme sojourned, and this did she in full mynd to dispatch them all at once, howbeit thay excused them selues by thair priuate quarrels with the Lordis of Guise, and thairfore desired not to be forced to cum into euident danger of thair persons: but she immediatly cauled both parties vnto Molins aforesaid, intending (as she said) to agre them togidder: howbeit in very deid only in hope that at sum meting, thay wald one fall out and quarell with another, and so coming vnto handy strokes, shew hir sum pastime? Otherwise if that way wald not serue, at the least, the Admirall suld haue no more excuse whereby to absent him self from the Court, this agrement being once passed betuix them. To be breif, she fully did perswade hir self that this accord culd atteyne vnto no better end, saue only to conuert

Queene Mother
ther seaketh
to bring the
Admirall to
Molyns.

The Admirall and the
Duke of Guise agreed, &c
to what end

their

their open enmities into secret rancour, yea and peradventure might be the meanes wherby she might be dispatched of one of the parties if not of both: But they come so well accompanied, besides such support and countenance as my Lord the Cōstable did shew vnto them, that they could by no meanes be intrapped: and from that tyme forward they continually found meanes not to be all at once at the Court: Wherefore when she found them more circūspect then she wald haue wished: she prosecuted hir first determination: and sent into Zwitterland for six thousand Zuitzers, vnder cullour to preuent the troupes of the Duke of Alba, which passed along our borders towards Flanders whereas hir full determination was to set vpon the Prince of Conde, with the rest of the Protestantis on the sudden, for the Spaniards wer passed before the Zuitzers came, & besides that whatsoeuer shuld haue happēed, the Frenchmen had bene sufficient to haue resisted and restrained them from doing any harme.

Queene Mother sedeth
for Zuitzers
against the
Protestantis

The Prince
la Rochefuryon discov-
ereth all the
determinati-
ons of Bay-
on to the
Prince of Con-
de.

Now after the returne from Bayon the Prince of la Rochefuryon, pietying such euils as he did foresee, ready to light vpon this Realme, had reuealed vnto his Cousen the Prince of Conde, as well by a Messinger sent on purpose, as also with his owen mouth, euin lying vpon his deith bed, the whole discours of the interprise cōcluded at Bayon against him and all the Protestantis, affirming that vntill this present he had concealed it, partly in hope it might haue bene brokin of & maid voyd by sū meanes whatsoeuer, partly also least him self shuld haue by reuealing the same seemed a steirer vp of new troubles: but now seing
that

that it went still forward, he, in discharge of his conscience, did reueale the same, least him self shuld through his folly permit the distruction of so many Noble, verteous and honest persons, among whome also, wer diuers his neir Kinsmen. And to say the treuth, he might go neirer vnto the marck then any other, by reason that he had traauayled the whole iorney in hir company, and during the same was of hir most familier & cheif allyes: Howbeit after their interprise at Bayon he considering the consequence of the same, did secretly approch and draw neare vnto the Prince of Conde, pretending to match him vnto his niece the Duke of Neuers widow, with a great portion of his goodes.

Againe the Marshall of Bourdillon lying at the point of death at Fountayn beleau, had openly before diuers persons, reported vnto such of his freindis as come for to visite him that, now death was most welcum vnto him, in that by the same he shuld be prevented from seing such miseries as shortly wald happen: for said he, before that six Monethis be cōmin and gone, thair will happen such a confusion throughout the whole Kingdome of France, that no man salbe assured either of lyfe or goodes.

*Bourdillon
lamentation
ouer France.*

These wer wonderfull warningis, proceeding from two of the cheifest fautors of this interprise.

About the same tyme also that the Zuitzers marched, a pure Protestāt who was fallin on sleip in the counsell Chalmer, vpon a step behind the hangings, chāced to heir the meanes debated vpo, how this practise might be put to execution.

*A Proteste
sleipeth in
the counsell
Chalmer,*

Againe

The publica-
tion of the
counsell of
Trent.

The Duke of
Aniow quar-
releth with
the Prince of
Conde.

The Prince
of Portian
poysoned.

The Prince
of Conde de-
termined to
resist.

The Prote-
stantes come
before Me-
aux.

The original
of the second
ciuill warres

Againe the counsell of Trent was ready to be proclaimed, and the Zuitzers drew neir vnto the Court to begin the army against all such as wald not obey the same: Moreouer my Lord the duke of Aniow at the Quenes request, began a drunken or Dutch quarell against the Prince of Conde at S. Germainys, wherein he proceded so far as to set hand vnto his dagger, scarce permitting vnto the Prince so long respit as by flyght to prevent an ambushe layd for him vnder cullour of going on hunting.

The Prince of Portian was already poysoned with a pair of Gloues perfumed after Master Rene his maner, and daylie thay sought for me, meit to practise the lyke Phisicke towards the rest.

The Prince of Conde thairfore considering all these manifest tokens of euill will, and persauing their preparations ready to execute these interprises by all meanes possible: fully resolved with his men and freindly company to tak weapon in hand: For already the most part of their libertie in Religiō was cut of (as to confesse the treuth I know not any, who seing such preparatiōs, wald not haue done the lyke) and for asmuch as the Quene had diuers tymes geuin to him to vnderstand that all these practises, proceded principally from the Lordis of Guise, he determined by force to expell and chace them from the Court, and for the same purpose came toward Meaux, where then the Court lay, from whence, vpon the first noyse of his marching, the Lordis of Guise afore said did withdraw them selues: This was the original of our second ciuill warres in this Kingdome. We do reprove the Prince of Conde and

his men

his men for the same (my intent heirin is not to excuse him, for I wald to God he had sought sū other meanes.) But whosoever doth consider in what danger thair liues cōsisted, in case thay had neuer so lytill refrained, fall of force be compelled to attribute the principall causes, vnto the pernicious and wicked practises of the Quene, who contrary to the publick fayth confirmed with the Kingis owne word, which ought to be euin truth it self, wold vtterly haue ruted them out. For like as in cace of combates, he which first setteth hand to his sword is more coulpatible then he that first striketh: euen so in warlike affairis, he that first breaketh peace, is more blameworthy for all the mishiefes which the other doeth commit in cace he intendeth fully to obserue the same.

The Protestantes at their remouing frō thence, drew towardis Paris, whether the King was gone whereas after sundry parlies, there was a battell fought, in the which many gentlemen of eyther party were slayn, from whence also my Lord the Constable caried his deathes wound into Paris, wheras (notwithstanding that not long before he was fallin out with the Prince of Conde in a certaine parle of peace) and now prouoked againe by a stripe newly receaued which had bene sufficient to haue moued him to seik reuenge: Yet notwithstanding al this, I say, he was so affectionat vnto the publiēt cōmoditie & cōmon welth of this Realme, and so far bent, rather vnto reason, then reuenge (how vehemēt so euer his greiwer) that at such tyme as the Quene came to visite him, he motioned nothing vnto hir, but the conclusion of a peace with all haist possible, in

The Protestantes come before Paris

The battayl of S. Dionise

The Constable wounded.

Queene Mo-
ther writes
the Consta-
bles counsaill.

The death
of the Con-
stable.

Ayde out of
Germany.

Peace againe
concluded,
but not vn-
cōstrayned.

these wordis, The breifest folys be the best, and
thairfore he exhorteth hir, that as she wished the
prosperitie of the Realme, so suld she desist from
farther disquyeting the same vpon any occasion
whatsoeuer, proponing vnto hir, how lametable
it was wasted through the slaughters and losse of
so much Nobilitie: howbeit all these wordis wer
in vayne, for those reasons which he did alledge
to moue hir to peace, those same did she wrest
vnto warre: where he opened vnto hir the losse,
she cōcluded it to be hir gayne: and from whence
so euer he saw the destruction of the Realme, she
promysed vnto hir self, that from the same place
she suld obtaine hir owen establishment. By his
death she is now dispatched of the man whome
she most feared, whose death how she bewailed
it is well knowen, in that she sought to bring his
Name into sclander of the Parisians, lyke as be-
fore she had assayed to bring his lyfe. Sone after
this thair came sum Reisters out of Germany to
the ayd of both parties: But she durst hardly gif
any credite vnto those whome the Duke Iohn of
Saxony had brought in hir fauour, becaus he was
Sōe in law vnto y Palatine elector, & manteined
the confession of Aufbourge: On the other side
the Prince of Conde hoped to tak Chartres, &
with the spoyle of the same to pay his mē, where-
fore these two reasons moued hir fully to con-
clude a peace, procuring the famely of Mommo-
rency to becum motioners of the same, and pro-
mising vnto the protestantes some part of thair
requestis: but for as much as hir faith was greatly
suspected, she now sware a thousand othes, that
she wold neuer consent to breaking of it, and cau-
sed the

fed the King ſolely to ſwear vnto the ſame, as if
 it wer but a tryfle to promyſe vpon the word of a
 King, and then to falſifie the ſame, & but a ſmal
 offence to prophaine his oth and faith. By this ^{Satiffying of}
 meanes the peace was ſone concluded, but vnto ^{the Kinges}
 what intent, it was quickly ſene: for hir only in-
 tent was to cauſe the Prince of Conde to diſſolue
 his army, to ſend home his Germaines, and to
 moue each man to reſteir vnto his owen habita-
 tion, which he performed within the tyme vnto
 him by this peace limited: wheras ſhe contrary-^{Quene Mo^r}
 wiſe framed and deuifed all preparations vnto ^{ther prepa-}
 warre, during the tyme that theſe Artickles of ^{reth for war-}
 peace wer a wryting. I truſt thair be no Catho-
 lickes, but will grant me that either we muſt pro-
 miſe nothing vnto the Proteſtantis, either elſe we
 muſt performe whatſoeuer we haue promyſed:
 For our keeping our othes vnto any, it is not ſo
 much in reſpect of his owen perſon, as for the ho-
 nour which we owe vnto God, whome we call
 vnto witneſſe in our doingis, and for the diſcharge
 of our owen conſciences, neither can I ſee what is
 to be loked for in all our humaine dealingis, in
 caſe our faith, which ought to be the only band
 be deſpiſed: Haue we not ſene Hōgary deſtroy-
 ed for hauing at the perſwaſion of a Cardinall,
 falſified thair faith vnto the Turck? Ar we igno-
 rant what happened vnto vs whē at the perſuite
 of Cardinall Caraffa, during his Papacy we brak
 with the Empreour and the King of Spaine: Ar
 not al Histoires replenished with ſuch examples?
 Affuredly no man may falſifie his faith vnto any ^{Faith not to}
 whome ſo euer, without great offence vnto god, ^{be falſified.}
 remorce of his owen conſcience, and blemish vn-

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to his

to his honour: much les the ought a prince so to
 deale, who suld be in respect, a Sanctuary vnto
 his subiectes, whome he is bound to loue, euen
 as the Father loueth his Children, & in case they
 be as it wer sicke, diseased, or corrupted, he suld
 lyke a perfite Phisicion, cure, dresse, heale, & caus
 them to be loked vnto. Now thairfore mark how
 she keapeth hir owen oth, and after what maner
 she caused the King to keip his. First she placed
 watch at the briggis, gates and passages of all Ri
 uers, thairby to restraine the Protestantis from
 any more assembling togidder: Afterward she
 obtained a Bull from the Pope dated in Iuly,
 whereas the peace was concluded but in Marche
 before, in so much that thair wanted tyme to so
 licite the same. By this Bull she was permitted
 to sell fyftie thousand Frankes of rent of the té
 poralities of spirituall men, conditionally it suld
 be all bestowed vpon the ruting out of the Pro
 testantis: At this Bull did the Chancellor called
 la Hospitall finde great fault, affirming in open
 counsell that the same did greatly derogate fro
 the Kingis honour, in as much as heirof, stran
 gers wald conclude, that the King had maid this
 peace purposely to the end to abuse his owne sub
 iectis. Also she compasseth a loofe the houses of
 the Prince of Conde, the Admiral, and Monsieur
 de Andelot, fully purposing to surprise them at
 a tyme appointed: she hunteth them from hous
 to hous: She layeth a thousand snairis to catche
 the: Finally she sendeth Monsieur de Goliaz in
 to Burgondy only to apprehend the Prince of
 Conde who then lay at his hous in Noyars. She
 sought also to tak the Admirall at Tauley by

meanes

meanes prescribed vnto Monsieur de Tauannes?
 But it chanced that sum of Monsieur de Tauannes his letters wer intercepted and brought vnto the Prince of Conde, in the which he aduertised hir highnes in these wordis. The beast is in the Nettis, and thairupon demanded when she sould execute this interprise, and vpon this warning the Prince with his wyfe and children: passing ouer the Riuer of Loyre at a shallowe the same night, withdrew him self toward Rochell, which only was exempt from Garnison, where he ariued in the moneth of September. Heir may you behold vs entered into new troubles, greater then before, through the only periury of this woman, who resembleth the malicious surgeons, who will neuer permit our woundes to grow vp againe, least in so doing, she sould lose all hir gaines heirby: Now thairfore marcke vnto what deuises she hath recourse in this hir raging sorrow, consaued of that, that she culd not bring hir practises to passe.

All men of any conscience did continually abhor, treasonalles, and also among other treasons did principally detest poyson, not permitting the practising and putting of the same in vre, euin among thair mortal enemies, which notwithstanding with Katherine de Medicis is but a sporte: For she sendeth out Italiens into the Princes army with cōmission to poyson and bring it wholly to death at once, yea she caused at one tyme to deuyer vnto one man ten thousand Frankis to bestow vpon stufte, which he promised to fine for that purpose, with poyson did she sollicite the seruants and officers of the Princes of Conde, the

Queene Mothers coikes bestowed vpon poysons.

Admirall, and Monsieur de Andelot, to destroy
thair Maisters: Others also she hyreth to mur-
ther them, promysing vnto them both pensions
and great rewardis for thair mischeuous paines.
The order of S. Michael custumably bestowed
vpon men without reproche, whereby thay becu
brethre vnto Kingis, is now promysed vnto trai-
tours and murtherers, in case thay may atteyne
vnto thair intentis. In the first battel the Prince
of Conde being takin vnder his hors, had zeilded
him self to Monsieur de Argence, who gaue him
his faith to saue his lyfe, but in the meane tyme
one Montelquion the Capitaine of the Duke of
Aniow his garde, who, contrary vnto all Law of
armes, against promysed faith, without worde
speaking, blow geuing, or any warning, and no-
thing respecting his discent, came behind him, &
so shot him into the head with a Dagge: So well
was she prouyded at all assayis, least this pure
Prince suld finde any meanes to escape.

The Prince
of Conde ta-
ken & mur-
thered.

The Admirall and Monsieur de Andelot his
brother gat both away, but wer shortly after poy-
soned at a Bancket, whereof the one dyed, and
the other very extreamely sicke, did hardly reco-
uer: and the doer of this traiterous fact at his ex-
ecution cōfessed that the Quene hir self had pro-
cured him to do the same. Within a while af-
ter she caused to suborne Dominico de Alua, the
Admirals Chamberleine (at the same tyme that
he, going toward the Duke of Bipont about his
Lordis affairis, was by the Catholickes takin pri-
soner) and caused to delyuer vnto him a Bagge
wherein was a very subtil poyson, with an excel-
lent sword, willing him either with the one, ei-
ther

The Admi-
ral & Mon-
sieur de An-
delot poyso-
ned.

Dominico
de Alua sub-
orned.

ther with the other, according as most conveniently he culd, to mak away his Lord & Maister, wherein he mislyked of his purpose: for being detected and conuict, he openly confessed the whole treason, and receauing for the same most condigne iudgement, was executed.

Notwithstanding none of all these practises came to effect, yet did she not quaille: For one named Maureuet vndertuke to kill him, howbeit afterward, considering that without great danger he culd not bring his purpose to passe, sumwhat to acquit his promise: he murdered Monsieur de Mouy his Capitaine and benefactor, for which deid she assigned vnto him a pension out of the townhous of Paris, wherewith the better to incourage him to vther the lyke practises, in which he is now becum perfite. Thus may you see that thair ar no meanes which she accounteth not lawfull and honest, how abhominable soeuer thay be, in case thay will serue to the ruting out of those whome she hateth: wherefore we need no longer to stand vpon this point, that she hateth them for their Religion, for whosoeuer vseth any such practises, is assuredly voyde bothe of conscience and Religion.

Againe no man can becum so Catholicke in one day, as it is euident that she did the same day that the King of Nauarre was slayne: But it is an only desire of reuenge & a cankered malice against the mighty which boyleth in hir breist, & assure your selues that shortly you shall see hir practise the same deuises against the most earnest catholickes in this Realme.

¶ Well the Duke of Biponte bryngeth seuē thousand

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thousand

The Duke of
Bipontis co-
minge into
France.

Queene Mo-
ther seaketh
to discredite
the Duke de
Aumale,

thousand reistres vnto the ayd of the protestants, whose caus is accounted Iust among the Princes of Germany, by reason of such manyfold treasons as thay had hard to be practised in Frãce for the ruting out of the professoures of thair Religion in the same countrie: Monsieur de Aumale hath an army lying vpon the Frontiers, him doeth the Queene command, omitting all kynde of perrill whatsoeuer, to fight with the Duke: whereupon he assembleth the principall of his army to demãd thair counsell and aduise: They find them selues to waik to fight with him: & do meruell that she maketh so small accompte of the Frenche Nobilitie, as to force them to fight against such power of strangers as they can not ouercome without great losse of Catholickes, who also in case they be ouercomin do nothing diminishe the number of the protestants in thair owen Realme, wherevpon after long disputations it was concluded to let them pas without battell, for which caus the Queene sought (according to the prouerbe, to cast the catte betwene his legges, vsing most bitter wordes against him to the end to bring him out of the King hir sonnes fauour, yea she sought co-uerly to haue attributed vnto him the losse of La Charite, with al vther the harmes which the Reistres had cõmitted throughout the whole realme To be breife she affirmed it to be but pultring to giue coufall not to fight, at all such tymes as this womans appetite serued thairunto: also that it was treason to dout the hafard of the French nobilitie at euery chance, yea or to refuse to put the to the office of Miners and labourers.

What more euidēt profe culd any man desire: In

fire: In this thair warre, which continewed more longer and shairp then either of the other two, thair wer two great feildis fought, where also hir self sumtimes came vnto the army, to the end the more to incourage the souldiers: there happened many metingis, Skirmishes, sieges, with other feates of armes, wherein many aswell Protestatis as Catholickes, Lordis, gentilmen, Capitaines, & commons, ended thair liues.

I can not meruell although she reioyced in the death of any Protestant, notwithstanding the losse of many of them was greatly to be laméted, and that a Prince who loueth his subiectis can not delyte in their destructions, howsoever they haue deserued, for as we reid Dauid bewailed the death of his Sonne Absolon, notwithstanding he had openly reuolted and rebelled against him:

Queene Mothers sorow
for the deith
of the Nobilitie.

But I will refer my self vnto those who wer attendant cōtinuallly vpō hir person, desiring their trew report of such lamentations as she maid for the death of any French Lord slaine in hir quarrell or seruice, as the late Monsieur Martigues, the Countie of Byron or such lyke, whome all the world bewaileth: Also of hir sorow for the common misery of all the countrie, & how greuously she tūke any heauy tydingis: nay contrariwise haue not most men sene hir opēly reioyce at the death of thre or four Protestantis, whose slaughter had bene bought with the blood of a hūdred Catholicke gentilmen? such as alwayes wer curriers from the Campe can trewly mak report, and whereof may a man gadder that this procedeth, saue only of a determination planted in hir brest, to rute out the Catholicke Nobilitie with the blood

blood of the Protestātis gentilmen, whereby she
sal gayne, on which side so euer the losse turneth.

We haue no caus to wonder that she so wel lo-
ued this game, seing she playeth so sure thairat,
neither so far as we can gadder is she mynded to
do any vther thing: yet must we once againe af-
ter such losse of people, destruction of Nobilitie,
murther of gentilmen and souldiers, and won-
derfull expenses of money, returne to speake of
peace.

Peace conclu-
ded. Anno.
1570.

Germany threaten vs: we suspect Englonde, our
army is replenished with diuisions and Ielouzye,
our Nobilitie reiected, and our people weary of
paymentis of money: vpon these causes after in-
finite treatise, peace is concluded: now thairfore
marck what we haue gayned by the last breach:
we must now giue out, that the Protestantis haue
takin weapon for the Kingis seruice, whereby it
is euident that we haue slaine his seruitours: we
must enter into bondes to pay their Reisters: we
must permit to them the exercise of their Reli-
gion, yea & that which is more, the Kingis faith
is now of so small accompt by reason it hath so
often bene falsified through the periury of one
woman, who gouerneth, that we must giue four
Cieties as Hostages and pledges for the trew ob-
seruance of this peace: for vtherwise I pray you
who dare trust thairin? Thus ar all our warres
vnprofitable, & our coyne cast down the streame
Had it not (I pray you) bene far more conueni-
ent quyetly to haue permitted vnto euery one
the peacible enioying of such order as the Estatis
haue accompted most expedient for the commō
welth and in the meane tyme to haue sought to
reduce

reduce into the right way the Protestants by sermons, admonitions, and exhortations, rather then thus at the perswasion of a woman, who careth not for the one, neither loueth the vther, and regardeth no kynde of Religion, to slay & murther one an other? Assuredly if euer peace deserued, in respect of promysed faith, to be obserued, vndoubtedly then ought this inuiolably to be kept.

The King sware vnto it faithfully in open counsell: The Quene his Mother and Monsieurs his brethren wer not to seik in the lyke dealings: All the Officers of the Court and Crowne, The Lordis of the preuie counsell: the Courtes of parliament: The great counsell: The Gouvernours of the Prouinces: The Prouest, Baillies & Schireffis of the Cietie of Paris. To be breif, all men in authoritie in the common welth and Kingdome, heirunto sworne: The Quene of England & the Princes of Germany do send verie honorable Ambassadours for to congratulate the Kingis Mariage with the Empreoures daughter? vnto all these doeth he promise, inuiolably to maintaine this peace, as most necessary to the conseruation of his Kingdome: In somme there wanted no kynde of assurance that culd be inuented to mak it autenticall: heirafter fall you se what account she maid of the blasoning and sclander of the Kingis oth in all places, yea and of the procuring of the whole Nobilitie to be periured and diffamed, notwithstanding most of them can not do with all. The Quene of Nauarre, the Princes of Nauarre and Conde, the Admirall, with vther the principall of the Protestantis, remained at Boshell vntill the fury of the people wer slaked,

whereby

The oth for
the keeping
of the peace

the Duke of
Guise in dā
12

wherby the Quene had small power to hurt the:
But this deuillish womā who neuer could be quiet
or tak any plesure except in vther mens harmes,
findeth vther meanes for to keip hir self occu-
pyed after hir wonted maner: For she missed na-
rowly from dispatching the Duke of Guise now
liuing, euin presently vpon his returne from the
warres, wher he had trauailed as al mē do know,
and this was the deuice.

the Duke of
Aniow way-
to kill:
the Duke of
Guise.

The Lady Margaret hir daughter shewed an
cheirfull countenance toward him, as toward a
lusty Lord, and zoung gentelman, who was wel-
cum to all men and already had shewed great to-
kens of his prowesse and promysed mighty mat-
ters in tyme to cum: the Quene persauing this
giueth to the late King and the Duke of Aniow,
sence King of Pole, and now King of France to
vnderstād that the said Duke of Guise began to
fansy and offer loue to hir daughter, their sister:
This did she perswade them that they ought not
to permit, neither was it meit to suffer suche a
meane Gallant (for that was hir phrase) so far to
presume, as once to think to mary his Maisters
sister: yea she maid his case so heynous in their
sightis, that they concluded vpon his deith. To
be breif, the Duke of Aniow, notwithstanding
he had before singularly loued him, did now
wait for him in a Gallery, to sheath his Dagger
in the said Duke of Guises hart as he suld passe
by: howbeit whither it were that he called to
minde such seruices as his predecessours before
tyme and his brother not long since, had recea-
ued at the handis of both his Ancestours & him
self also, or whither vpon any vther occasion: but

he refrained: Neuertheles shortly after the King
 through the importunate suite of his Mother,
 did delyuer a sword & a dagger vnto Mōsieur le
 grād Prior his natural brother, willing him that
 at such tyme as his Maiestie went to the assembly
 he suld alwayis ryde nixt vnto him, & in case the
 Duke of Guise wald, according to his vsual ma-
 ner, prease betuix them, he suld in earnest quarell
 and assaile him, yea the King gaue him men to
 ayde him if neid wer: Well the time drew on, the
 Duke of Guise, after his wonted vse, thrust in be-
 twene them: The grand Prior maketh as he wald
 iustle him back: howbeit, wer it their ancient a-
 mitie, or the doutfull end that might cū thereof,
 he proceded no farther: whereupon the King for
 a tyme shewed to him but simple cheare, making
 an small accompt of him, yea the Quene in re-
 proche of his birth, said that it had bene a won-
 der if euer he had done a valiant deid. Admit the
 Duke of Guise (as ordinarily zounge men do cō-
 ceauue hope) had pretended vnto this Mariage,
 suld this be first tyme that the hous of Lorreyne
 was allyed to the line of France? Is it not so pre-
 sently? Put the case it is not. Who is neuerthe-
 les ignorant that loue is a disease vnprouyded of
 most worldly considerations, which oftentimes
 maryeth the Scepter vnto the Shepehooke, and
 the Imperiall Pallaces vnto Cabbins? Was it ne-
 cessary for this deid, so rigorously to conspire the
 deith of so valiant a Lord? Well the treuth is that
 hir disease lay not in that place: We be not so dif-
 ficult to be intreated in loue matters, as we mak
 for: we obserue not therein all the breifes and
 longes, as we wald men suld suppose: But the
 matter

An other
 practise ag-
 inst the Duke
 of Guise.

The grand
 Prior a ba-
 flard.

matter was this: He is a yong Lord, well trained
vp, the sonne of one of the most valiant Capi-
tanes of our tyme, & in his childheid hath shew-
ed a heart worthie such a Father: We wald thair
fore be rid of him: warre culd nor consume him:
we must then finde sum vther occasion to dis-
patche him, so suld both Father & Sone receaue
their wages for all their seruice in lyke coyne:

She reioyceth at the Fathers death: She is fory to
se the Sone liue: But omitting these matters let
vs now retorne to the obseruation of the peace.

To what ed-
the Prote-
stants wer de-
sired to the
wedding.

Quene Mo-
thers Mes-
sage to the
Pope.

The King being ready to Mary the Empreoures
daughter, his Mother causeth to inuite the Pro-
testantis Capitaines to the wedding, intending
there for to entrap them, as was euident by a let-
ter which she caused the Cardinall of Sens to
wryte vnto the Pope, in the which she desireth
his holynes not to tak it in euil part that she had
vpon such conditions concluded peace with the
Protestantes, for that was but a pollicie to bring
thingis to passe: for (said she) had their Capita-
nes cumin to the Mariage, it had bene already
dispatched. Now let all men iudge what honour
it had bene to our King, to desire men to his
Mariage, and there to haue murthered them, or
what a pleasure it wald haue bene to the Empre-
our to heir that his daughters mariage had bene
consecrated with so wicked, detestable and abho-
minable treason: But it so fell out, that as yet
most of the people was not quyeted, whereupon
the Protestantis had lawful excuses to absent the
selues from the Court, which place aboue all v-
ther they specially suspected: These their allega-
tions moued hir to seik al meanes possible to quiet

the

the whole cuntry, fayning y^e she wald most secretly punish such seditious persons, as vnder a secret hope that all these deuises tended only to the assurance of the Protestantis beleif, take very boldly vpon the. Thus she missed of them at this time, but mark the sequele.

After all these matters aforesaid, the Quene knowing by hir former dealinges, that these hir practises wer already suspected, & that now she had attained vnto the reputation with hir Vncle Clement the 7. namely that promysing any thing whatsoeuer, yea in full intēt to performe y^e same, she was now neuertheles nothing credited, she thought it not amis the King shuld play his part (whose wordes & speich she framed & forced to agre with hers) becaus that in his so tender youth his wordis shuld be much les suspected of fayning & dissimulations. She therefore procured him to propone two thingis which semed most fit to abuse the Protestātis, & the same which specially they now desired and wished for. The first was, warre against the King of Spain for the recouery of the low countries. The vther was, the mariage of my Lady Margaret his Sister, hir daughter vnto the King of Nauarre.

These hir two principall pointes she so earnestly pursued, that finally bringing the to passe, she attained hir long desired purpose. In the meane time the Prince of Orenge, who was the generall of those who wer risen in the low countries against the inquisition and gouernment of Spaniards was gone to his owen hous in Germany whereas he was earnestly sollicitated to agre with the King of Spaine, vpon sumwhat reasonable conditions, which

Quene Mother causeth the King to motion sundry deuises vnto the protestantes.

The Prince of Orenge sollicitated to agre with the King of Spaine.

The Empre-
our motio-
neth a peace
betwene the
King of Spaine and the
Prince of O-
renge which
the King of
France mak-
eth voyde.

which the Empreour the only motioner of this
agrement, had proponed and promysed to caus
to be inuiolably obserued, whereby he was in a
maner resolved to accept them, which when the
King vnderstode, he caused to wryte a letter vn-
to the County Lodouik de Nassaw, the Prince of
Orenge's brother, who then sojourned at Rochel,
wherein he put him in hope of succour against
the said King of Spaine, and therefore desired
him to cum to his presence, whereas they might
more particularly comon of his Maiesties whole
intent: hereupō the said County repared secreit-
ly toward Blandis in Brye where the Court then
lay, from whence the King very slenderly accom-
panied went to meet him at Lumiguie; & from
thence departed to Fountaine Belew, whither
also the County Lodouick secretly followed him,
wheras he comuned with the King aforesaid,
the space of thre or four dayes, who maid vnto
him so large and fair offers, that at his returne he
counsayled his brother the prince of Orendge a-
foresaid, no lenger to harken vnto the treaty late
begun with the King of Spaine, seing that now
the french King Ministred so good occasions of
warre against him. Returning also to Rochell he
perswaded the Admirall that the King was cir-
nestly bent toward this warre, so far as a man
might presume, considering all vantages which
wer to be espied: also that the Queene mother was
highly offended at the death of hir deir daughter
who was poysoned in Spaine: Agane y the King
mislyked of suche braueries as the Spaniardis
had practised against him in Florida, neither was
well content that they sought to set fute within

his

his preeminences, with such lyke stuff: by these wordis it began to sincke into the Admirals hart, that the King coueted warre against the Spaniards, and so consequently wysshed for a generall peace throughout his whole Kingdome, according vnto a common rule which before he had alwayis obserued, Namely that to continew our peace it is necessary to keip the men of warre occupied in forein contreis against strangers.

The Admiral is perswaded that the king of france determined warre against the Spaniards.

About the same tyme, they sent forth the Cardinall of Chastillio the Admirals brother to motion another Mariage for the Duke of Aniou, howbeit in his returne homeward, he was poysoned by one Guilliu his Chamberlain, who not long before had promised the Quene so to do.

An Mariage motioned for the duke of Aniou.

This Guillin wrought so artifycially, that vntill such tyme, as after saint Bartlemewes lametable murder, he was taken as a spy at Rochell, and for that caus brought vnto execution, wheras he confessed the said deid, affirming euin at the hour of death, that he was far worse then a spy, for he had (said he) at the procurement of certain the Quenes officers who promysed vnto him most ample rewardis, poysoned his late mayster the Cardinall aforesaid, it was neuer knowin who was the worker thereof. After this maner did she reward the Cardinall for all his paines, vnto whome afore tyme she had shewed greatest tokens of amitie, and that not without caus: For by his helpe she recouered of a sicknesse at Chaaillons, whereas all the Philitions had giuen hir ouer, & besydes that he had bene hir cheifest stay, at the same time that for hir barrennesse she shuld haue bene sent home againe vnto Florence: This treaty of mariage, se-

The Cardinall of Chastillion poysoned.

med in part to tend to the better obseruing of the peace.

A counsal to
haue mur-
thered the
Admirall.

The King sone after called the Admirall to the Court vnder coulor of the flemish warre, vpon which hope he accordingly gaue his attendance with forty horses only: At that tyme they held a counsal to haue dispatched him, & for the same purpose, fortified the Kings gard with foure hundred harquebuziers, whill the King lay at Bloyse, howbeit fynally they determined to attend for better oportunity to haue entrapped them both at once, and so this practise went quite backward.

The King sheweth him a thousand fauoures: The Quene more then euer she had done: also to let him vnderstand that they pay him not with wordis-only, they commit vnto him the whole charge and conduct of the wars in the low contryes: Thus do they permit him to returne fully satissified into his own house.

The Mari-
age of the
King of Na-
uarre propo-
ned and ac-
corded.

The Mariage of the Lady Margaret vnto the King of Nauarre, which was the other hope of the protestants, went forward in the same season: The King and the Quene semed very desyrous thair of, boasting that now thay intended to mary the Catholickes vnto the Protestantis: yea, and to remoue all doubtés thay easily did condescend to the Protestantis so far, as to permit the Mariage of the said King of Nauarre, to be vtherwise solemnised than the Catholicke and Romishe Church did allow: thair was now thairfore no more to do, but to attend the cumming of the Quene of Nauarre for passing of the accord and of the King, hir Sone for performing the Mariage: The Quene of Nauarre, after a few dayis being

being cum, the treaty of this Mariage was sone concluded. Not long before hir arriuall thair Cardinal A-
 came to the Court the Cardinall Alexandryne, riuall at the
 the late Popes Neuue, who heiring of hir aproch Court, and
 hastened him self the more in full hope to haue dis- the causes
 solved all matters aswell of the Mariage, as of the thereof.
 Flemishe warres, yea, and to haue renewed the
 Kingis warre against the Protestantis, as in deid
 that was the only effect of his Message: wherfore
 the better to abuse their simplicitie, openly the
 King and the Quene seemed to make but small
 account either of his person or propositiōs, how-
 beit secretly they certified him that al these pra-
 ctises tended only to the ruine of the Protestants.

The King notwithstanding all these thinges,
 entered very far into matters with the Countie
 Lodouick who came with the Quene of Nauar: The Kinges
 wherein also the said Countie was nothing be- conference
 hindre: for he disclosed vnto both the King and with Countie
 the Quene, what intelligences and interprises he Lodouick,
 had, aswell in Flanders as in Henaulte in most of
 their good townes: the King therefore promisseth
 to him ayde of als many futeemen and horsmen
 as him self shall think sufficient: he also sendeth for
 the most valiant gentilmen Protestantis to the
 end to assigne vnto euery one what interprise he
 shall vndertake, and after what maner he shall put
 it in executiō, by such meanes as the Countie shall
 appoint him: he sendeth furth Minguicier in a
 Ship of warres, rigged after the maner of a Mar-
 chant, for to espy the landing of Perow: he con-
 cludeth league with the Quene of England who
 at that tyme, was not all the best content with
 the King of Spaine, promysing among vther
 E. ij. thingis:

An league
with the
Queene of
England.

An league
with the ger
maine Prin-
ces.

Embassage
to the great
Turcke.

Montes sur-
prised.

Valenciens
surprised.

thing is to ayde hir throughout his dominions in
case the King of Spaine wald not zeild vnto hir
all such hir subiectis with their goodes as he did
detaine: He proponeth another treaty with the
Protestant Princes in Germany: he being sollici-
ted by Luke of Floréce by the meanes of Fregose,
to lend money wherewith to discharge the wars
which he might stand in dout of, for the Duchy
of Sien: assembleth his army on the sea at Bro-
uage wherewith to assaile the low countries:
Moreouer he sendeth an honorable Ambassage
to the great Turcke purposely to exhort him to
land in Sicily: It was also noysed in the low cou-
tries that the King of France fauoured the Prince
of Orenge against the King of Spaine, whereupō
it chaunced that when the County de la March
the Prince of Orenge's kinsman had takin the
Towne of Briell in Holland, through dispair, the
whole coutries of Holland and Zeeland in hope
of the King of France his succour, who armed his
nauy at Brouage, did reuolt. These affairis being
thus all at once broched and begun, the County
Lodouicke accompanied with diuers French gen-
tlemen, aduowed by the Kingis Letters, Namely
Genlis and None hauing sent the ould Capitane
Poyet by the break of day to sease vpo one of the
gates of Montes, vnder colour of passing toward
the Duke of Alba, shewing the Kingis passport ten-
ding to the same end he surprised the said towne
of Monts, and other of his gentlemen also accom-
panied with diuers frenchmé, did on the sodeine
tak Valenciennes, but the Castle did sone recouer
that Towne againe, these two being the cheif
Townes and fortresses of all Henault.

Vpon

Vpon these demeanures, the King findeth occasion againe to call the Admirall to the Court, to the end to haue his aduice in this warre, whereas presently vpon his cumming, he granteth to him one Thesaurer, whome he commandeth to delyuer to the said Admirall whatsoeuer money he shal need for the conducting of this war, wherein the Duke of Alencon shuld be generall: Genlis returneth from Monts, he commoneth with the King, and obtaineth his Maiesties letters vnto sundry gentlemen, wherein thay are commanded to bring him succour: but he was ouerthrowen in the way, and the Kings letters being found, were caryed to the Duke of Alba. About the same tyme the Prince of Orenge returneth out of Germany with a strong power of Reisters, part of whose Capitaines were pensioners of France, & liued of the Kings pay: He entered into Brabant: he take diuers good Townes: He was receaued into Louayne, one of their cheif Townes, & into Malines where all the munitiō of the whole countrie remained: To be breif, in short space he reduced all the King of Spaine his Estait in the low countries, vnto such a hazard, as thay were ready to ioyne with him and to take his part: All these things proceeded, as you may see, of our Quenes only drifts, and thairfore I leaue vnto all wise mens iudgementis, to gadder what kynde of thankis the King of Spaine may cun vs, or whether he will omit the first occasion of reuenge, that he can spy out.

During all these matters, the Celebration of the Mariage depended and stayed only vpon the King of Nauarre: but whilest all men hoped to

The King
granteth to
the Admirall
an Thesaurer.

The Prince
of Orenge re-
turneth out
of Germany

grudge into the low Countries, the Quene contrariwise prepared to entrappe the Protestantis, althought she thought it yet necessarie to waite one day longer before the stroke. She did most extremely hate the Quene of Nauarre, whome of long tyme she knew to be of great wisedome and valyant courage, wherfore she feared, that in case the said Quene suld liue after the murther of the rest, she might yet once watche hir a displeasure, If in the murder already deuised, she suld procure hir death, vnder cullour of the auncient quarrell of the hous of Guise, against the familie of Chastillon, therein culd she find no sufficient occasion (for how suld she refer this fault vnto the Lordes of Guise, who neuer had any caus of quarrel against hir.) Againe she doubted, that so long as the said Quene liued, she suld haue no auctority ouer the young King of Nauarre: yea, she feared also lest in that the said Quene was of good forecast and mistrustfull, she might peraduecture smel out all these driftes, and so make frustrate all hir ententes. Finding therefore no vther meanes, she had recourse vnto hir hyred and vsuall poysoner Maister Rene, who by selling his perfumes and perfumed doblers vnto the said Quene, found meanes so to Infect hir, that sone after she deir, whereof he hath since bene so bould, as to make his awant, and therein hath so farre proceeded, as to boast that yet he had stuffe enough for thre or foure more, who nothing mistrusted him. An vther difficulty that yet remained, and that was, that the Pope was very slack in admitting and granting a dispensation to marry, contrary to the auncient rites of the Church, neyther durst the

Cardinall

The Quene
of Nauarre
poysoned.

Cardinall of Burbon condiscend to marry them, without the said dispensation, for feare of being excommunicated: herein marcke hir conscience.

The Quene fayned to haue receaued Lettters from the Cardinall of Lorreyne, that the said dispensation was granted, but not yet dispatched, and that therfore they neided no longer tyme to differ the mariage, but if it plesed the, they might at thair owen wils celebrate the same: These fals and forged letters did she shaw vnto the cardinall of Burbon, who vpon the sight of the same, was content to marry them after the maner agreed vpon, with the Protestantis, and so was it solemnized the seuententh of August.

Quene Mother couereth letter fro the Cardinall of Lorreyne,

The next Friday after, the Admirall was with a harquebuze wounded, by the same Maureuet, who slew Monsieur de Mouy, his Capitaine, as is foresaid. The King, the Quene, the Monsieuris hir children, came to visit him: She more then any vther, semed to be displeased at his hurt crying out lowder then the rest, against the authors thereof: and yet the next night betwene Saturday and Sunday, she causeth him to be killed outright, and not him only, but so many more of the Protestantis, as could be found, who before had bene inrolled, to the end, that not one of them might escape. The first in this number inrolled, wer the four brethren, the Mommorencies, although Catholickes, which wer saued by the only abience of the Duke of Mommorencie, the eldest of the brethren, and cheif of that race, who vpon the Thursday before was gone on hunting: The Marshall de Cousse, supplied the synth Rowme.

The Admirall wounded

The Admirall slaine.

Who shulde haue bene murdered &c by what means they did escape.

E. iij.

After

After followed Monsieur de Biron, with many more. To be breif, the Lowre gates wer shute, lest any suld escape: But Seignior Claude Marcell meting with Monsieur de Thore, one of Mōmorencies brethren, warned him with all speid, to shift for him self, if he loued his owen lyfe, becaus that day was vnfortunate for his progenie: As for the Marshall de Cosse, had not the prayers of Madam de Chasteau Neuf (who bestowed hir credite vpon the Duke of Aniw, since King of Pole, and now of France) bene of great efficacie, he had passed the same way with the rest, as also Mōsieur de Biron, who saued him self in the Arsenall: The King of Nauarre escaped at the hūble sute of his new wyfe, the Kingis sister: the Prince of Conde, by the help of his brother in law, the Duke of Neuers, who alledged that as yet he was young and tender, and easily might be brought into the right way, and reduced to thair Religion. These men did God who wald not in one day subuert our whole kingdōe, exempt out of this horrible murther.

The Admirals body, after that the heid being cut of, was presented to the Quene, did thay train to Montfaucon Gallous, whither sone after in an Euening hir self went to behald him, taking with hir, hir Sones, hir daughter, and hir Sone in law: what a bewtifull spectakle this was, for so Noble Princes to behald, I pray you consider: For my part, I can not conceaue to what intent she did it, vnles it wer to imboulden them in all kynd of bludy cruelty, and so to fraime them to hir owē nature, which is such, that no kynd of tyrannous sight, can so far quail hir cruell kynd, as therein
to diminish

Quene Mother
her lea ieth
hir Children
so behoulde
the Admirals
Carcasse
& vpo what
occasion.

to deminish hir pleasure and delight, or to caus
hir to absent hir self, from the presence of the
same.

Many valiant gentlemen, whose want against
strangers, I feare, we all shall hereafter bewayle, wer
in this rage slayne, yea many earnest Catholickes,
as among others Monsiear de Villemaur, one of
the masters of the Requestes, and sonne to the
Lord keiper of the Seales Bertrandi, afterward
Cardinall of Sens, also Monsieur Rutillart, a coun
sellor Clark of the Court of Parliamēt, & Chanō
of our Lady Kirk, who both wer well knowē for
earnest Catholickes, althogh enemies to all cru
eltye, vniustice and sedition.

Catholickes
Murthered.

The Rascalls of the Cietie, moued partly by
the example of those, who cryed that the Prote
stantis wald haue murthered the King and his
brethren, partly also by hope of the spoyle, mur
thered all those whome they met, without regard
either of nature, age, qualitie, vocation, or Reli
gion.

Quene Mo
ther coman
ded the mur
der in all par
tes.

The Quene commanded all gouernors, with
in thair precinctes, to do the like, which precept,
in most Cieties of the Realme was with extreme
cruelty executed, notwithstanding, the very hāg
men in sum places, did chuse rather to lose thair
offices, then to practise such murders vpon inno
cent people by Iustice and Law, vncondempned:
He who coulde commit most slaughter was great
lyest rewarded: Sum thay strangled in the pri
sons: for thair saikis which had begged thair cō
fiscations: for the Marshall de Retz, caused to
murder within the prison called Chastelet, one
of the Kingis Secretaries, to the end him selfe
might

might enioy his landis & possessions. The whole discourse heirof wald be tedious, if a man sould particularly descriue the same: It is sufficiently known vnto all men, and my self do trimble at the remembrance thairof. In this place to argue whither thay had conspired against the King or not, it wer superfluous. All likelyhoodes do say nay: preparation thair was none to be perceaued: No man defended him self: The consaylours of this pretence, do reporte it to be an excellent motion: If it had bene trew, why was not their case hard and their processe decyded? Wherefore wer they not lawfully and by Iustice executed? Was it vnpossible to haue apprehended those persons, whome they slew in their beddes? Was not the Admirall from the tyme that he was hurt still in the custodie of the Kingis garde, which was assigned for his defence against the seditious persons? Were thair so many protestantis that the Kingis garde coulde beir no sway? Was thair no people in Paris? either wer thair no men of warre? By orderly proceedingis, the Kings reputation had neuer bene called in question among foreyne Nations, but rather all Princes wald haue ayded to the chastising of the conspiratours: Nay, these ar only the deuises of sum Tyrannous Maximine, whereby to rute out all the mighty men from among the Romaine people.

The first letters concerning the murder.

The Quene is conuict by hir owen letters, &c by those letters which she caused the King hir Sonne to direct vnto the Lieutenantis and Gouernoures of Prouinces, and vther officers of this kingdome, besydes those which were written to his

his Embassadoures, according to the tennour
 whereof they were, to mak report vnto his Ne-
 ighbouris and Princes adioyning, in the which
 she saith expressly, that she greatly lamented this
 chance, happened to the Admirall, and his par-
 takers, against the willis both of the King and of
 hir self, also, that the Duke and Lordis of Guise
 in reuenge of certaine thair ancient and priuate
 grudges, had forced the Garde which the King
 for his saifcy had geuin vnto him, wherein they
 had bene ayded by the Parisianes, whereby the
 King was not able to remeid it, or to restraine
 thair rage: Of the treuth of the contentis of
 these letters, I reporte me to all that then were
 Embassadoures. Them selues shall confesse, whi-
 ther they wer ashamed when as, sone after that
 they had certified those Princes, where they wer
 resident, that all these thingis wer done by the
 Lordes of Guise, for credite whereof, they had
 also shewed the Kingis letters, now sodenly they
 wer recharged to giue furth to vnderstand, that
 the King him self was the Author heirof, in pu-
 nishment of a certaine conspiracie, detected a-
 gainst thair Maiesties: Hardly knew they at
 which end to begin to frame thair Recantations
 of thair wordis afore spokin: Let vs thairfore, I
 pray you, with sum deliberation, examine this
 dealing: Let vs as it wer, penetrate into the per-
 nitious counsellis of this woman, and marcke
 whereunto this riting out, either of the Prote-
 stantis only, either of all the mighty men of this
 kingdome, without respect of Religioun, do
 tend.

Queene Ma-
 thers second
 letters.

These dea-
 lingis better
 examined.

The Admirall being inuited to the Court, vnto
 the

the Mariage of a Kingis sister, after à thousand
 othes, & a thousand imbraisingis, is finally mur-
 thered, and not he only, but all the most notable
 Protestantis, which had accompanyed the King
 of Nauarre. I might heir alledge the Kingis faith
 which ought to haue bene regarded: Also the
 Mariage of a Kingis sister, which suld not be im-
 ployed vpon so traiterous and villanous practises
 Well, admit that all these considerations were
 naught to be regarded, and that it wer sumthing
 tollerable in the person of an Admirall, who had
 bene generall leader of all the Protestantis ar-
 myes, and by that meanes had highly moued the
 Kingis displeasure against him self: But I pray
 you, for his cause ought they so cruelly to haue
 prosecuted thair rage against all the protestantis
 Nobilitie, who for the most part, notwithstanding
 thair difference in Religion, wer so earnestly bêt
 to the Kingis seruice, that thay offered their owē
 persons, and at their owen charges to hane, for
 his caus warred against the King of Spaine: was
 it necessary they must be slaine, and that in the
 Chalmer of the new maryed Bryde? Peraduē-
 ture sum will alledge that thay wer gentilmen &
 bare sum countenance among the Protestantis,
 yea thay wer (as we terme them) Capitaines, mō
 who wer sufficient to haue againe raised vp, and
 renewed the warre whiche we went about to
 quenche. Wel let this reason serue: But for their
 sakes might they lawfully murther and slay such
 number of pure people at Paris? Ought thay to
 haue commanded all gouernours to execute the
 lyke crueltie in vther Cities? Must thay neidis
 kil Artificers, pure men, old men, wemen, Chil-
 dren,

dren, generally, all persons vnable to beare Armour, who wer moued only in respect of their Saluation to imitate an vther Religion? Perhaps you will say thay wer Protestantis and confirmed in thair opinions, and thairfore seing it wald be no better, we must neidis rute out all the whole race. Assuredly I can not so rawly passe ouer this point: for thair was sum hope of winning them vtherwise, also I can no where finde that euer any trew christiane Prince vsed the lyk doings vnto either Iewes, Turckes, or Sarasens; neither did euer verteous Catholick in our coutrie allow of this so cruell dealing, but rather saued so many as possibly thay might: yet notwithstanding for this present, I will be content to admit this so vnreasonable an excuse in part of payment: But I pray you, suld thairfore the Lordes of Mommorency, the Marshall de Cousse thair allye, the principall officers of this Crowne, Monsieur de Biron, and vthers be reduced into the Roll of those who suld haue bene murthered? I beseech you what had thay done? or whereof do you accuse them to be culpable? how deserued thay to be so vniustly intreated? wer thay protestantis, nay, wer thay not alwayes earnest Catholickes? were thair euer any Lordes in France who haue more valiantly fought against the Protestantis then thay? I neid not rehearse vnto you the taking and woundiuig of thair Father the Cōstable, at the battaile of Dreux, where he also lost one of his Children, neither how at four scoir zeiris of age, he receaued his deathis wound at S. Dionise: I know very well that the good seruice of the Father doeth neuer excuse the misdemea-

Hurs of the Sonne, but was thair euer any battell
 fought against the Protestantis, wherein ſū of this
 famely, whome now they wald murder & mak
 away, wer not present? Haue thay not in all con-
 flictis borne cheif ſway? and haue thay not at all
 tymes moſt honorably diſcharged thair fūctiōs?
 Alſo whither thay haue not at all tymes farther
 haſarded them ſelues, then by dewey thay were
 bound, let all the Capitaines of this Realme te-
 ſtifie, let the whole Armies ſpeik thair myndes,
 yea let the Protestantis them ſelues ſhew, whoſe
 blowes haue bene to them moſt heauy: By thair
 answers you may be reſolued. As for the Mar-
 ſhall de Coſſe, who yet beareth the markes of ſo
 many woundes, moſt honourably receaued in all
 the lait warres, againſt both the enemies of the
 Crowne, and the Protestantis (omitting heir the
 valiant ſeruices of his brother, the Marſhall Briſ-
 ſac: and of his Nenewe the County of Briſſac,
 who both died againſt the Protestantis) can any
 man defraude him of the honour of the thride
 watre: or dare any perſon deny him, to haue bene
 the procurer of moſt part of our good ſuccesſes
 againſt the Protestantis? Who gaue the cheif
 counſall in the battall of Moncontour, whereas
 ten thouſand Protestantis loſt thair liues?
 Who beareth the cheif Name of ſo Many valiant
 victories in the lait warres? Vnto Monsieur de
 Biron what may (I beſeech you) be imputed, who
 hath often ventured his lyfe in theſe late Ci-
 uill conflictis, wherein he hath ſo faithfully and
 proſperouſly conducted the Catholickes Artille-
 rie: Surely you can ſay nothing againſt him, for
 he is a Catholicke, and to his power hath war-
 red againſt

red against the Protestantis: But heir is the matter.

The hous of Mommorency is of neirer kynred vnto the Admirall, and very freindly to his famely, and the Marshall de Cossé is allyed vnto them: well in case it be so, or admit the Admirall had conspired: And thairfoir all his Catholicke kynred be slaine: Is it to be granted that thairfore we must tak against all those that be allyed vnto his famely, or against such as be freindis to those that be allyed with him? hath not the king him self shewed him a thousand tokens of amitie very laityly before his deith, yea and called him Father? Is it thairfore forbiddé to all them who naturally ar bound to shew him freindship, for to fauour him? If this be an offence, I pray you what hous in France is exempt of cryme? What gentilman or vther sal escape the Haulter, in case it be a capitall delict, punishable, not only by Iustice, but also without all order of Law, for to be freind, allye, or kinsman to the Admirall, his freindis, allyes, or kinsmen? Where is the Law which euen among barbarous nations putterh to death not the freindis only, but also the very Children of any person gyltie of treason, vnles them selues be found partakers in the same? That then belyke, is not the caus: but we must finde an vther.

Faine wald we rute out the cheif of the Nobilitie: All such as by byrth be mighty: yea, those who either by thair owen, either by thair ancestors seruice, haue atteyned to any honorable degree: such as lawfully might withstand our wicked practises: & all them which by reason of their
naturall

naturall goodnes, can not be partakers in our dis-
 loyatie and treasons. This is our *Queens* drift,
 this is the mark which she shutech at, for the at-
 teyning whereunto, she must finde sum begin-
 ning. In the warres she hath procured the deiths
 of the neirest of the blood Royall, with the cheif
 of the famelyes of Mommorency and Guise, the
 one being great Maister, the vther Constable of
 France. Now seiketh she to extinguishe the
 whole Name of the Mommorencyes and Chas-
 tillions, and yet will protest in all countries, that
 the Lordes of Guise haue done it in reuenge of
 thair priuate quarrels: Thus may yow se the
 very bottome of hir malice. At the execution of
 the murther of Paris, she vsurped the Names of
 the Lordes of Guise, as of those who through
 a priuate displeasure, did in reuenge, affect the
 Admirals death, Notwithstanding that therein
 they so behaued them selues, that many Protec-
 tantes at this dayliuing, do acknowledge their
 liues only of their liberalitie: And seing that in
 this deid, she hath to hir power, brought them in-
 to hatred among all men, she now seketh to mak
 them auctors of all mischief, and to excuse hir self
 at their costes, whereby to banishe them from the
 Court, not for a countenance, but to the end in
 deid so sone as they be departed, so to fasten the
 gate after them, that they shall neuer get in againe:
 yea, and peraduenture after thir processe be maid
 yet once againe to trouble the whole common
 welth, and so to force the Kingis gard to be Mi-
 nisters of hir reuenges: This is such a practise as
 she hath perficly learned of hir Machiauellistes:
 For by this meanes she hopeth that the famely of
 Mommo-

Mommorency which ar escaped hir clawes be so nere of kin vnto the hous of Chastillion, and wer so great freindes to the late Admirall, that vnder standing that the King will not hinder them, or deale in the matter; they will not fayle to assembl togeather their freindes, to the end to reuendge his death, for assuredly it semed they wer greatly moued at his wound: heir may you se the past all hope of reconcilment; heir haue they begun a quarrell sufficient for their liues tyme, and that which is more, on what side so euer the losse turneth, or who so be slaine; she fall still thereby reap profit and pastime: Thus approcheth she nearer to the mark wherat she doth shute: But almightie God who will not permit hir to obtain hir purpose but semeth to haue reserued those two famelies to reunit them selues togeather till tyme and opportunitie conuenient, for the confusion of this accursed woman; the conseruation of them selues, & the reestablishing of this kingdom: did so open the eyes of the Lords of guise, that thay wald not depart the Court, before that the King in open Parliament had, to thair discharge, aduowed and published all those Murthers to haue bene committed by his owen expresse commandement, yea and afterward meting the Duke of Mommorency, declared to him particularly that not thay, but the Quene had procured Maureuet to shute at the Admirall. Also that the Couÿty de Rerz was the party, who both did him self speak, and caused vthers to moue the said Maureuet thereunto, also that notwithstanding they wer glaid of his death, as of one of their enemies, yet wald they not that he suld after that

maner haue bene dispatched, had thay not had expresse commandement from his Maiestie: heir may you se how this woman surmounteth euen hir self in all kynde of mischeifis.

Bricquemault & Ca-
uagnes ap-
prehended &
executed.

We all do know thair was no conspiracy: we all haue sene it so subscribed vnto by the King & Quenes owen handis: The Lordis of Guise are warre, and will not permit hir to satisfie Princes at thair costes: To mak therefore the world beleue that thair was sumwhat, the Quene caused iudgement to be giuen against Bricquemault, an ancient gentilman of thre score and ten zeiris of age, who had spent all his tyme in the warres of the late Kingis with good reputacion, and against Cauagnes a counseler of the court of Parliament of Tholouse, who both wer apprehended in the heate of the great murther.

First she promiset them life, in case of their owen accordes they wil confesse the crime, which they refused, she presēteth to them the rack: and yet notable to wring any thing out of them for hir purpose, she choseth iudges to condemne thō whose consciences forced them to confesse that they found no caus why to put them to death: wherevpon she seketh vther iudges after hir own mynde, who to the end both to satisfie hir appetite, and also to set some color vpo thair processe, wherby to discharge them selues toward the posteritie found out a slanderous sleight wherefore to put them to death, namely, for bryberie & thefte of the Kinges coyne, wherewithall they neuer theles neuer had to do: howbeit thair innocency culd not preserue them from being as Conspirators executed, notwithstanding they culd find no

evidence,

evidence, either by thair owne confessions, or by the despositions of any vther. To be brief, they both did constantly professe, euen to the death, whereat the King, the Quene his Mother, the Monsieuris his brethren, and the king of Nauarre, were present, that thay neuer had heard of any such matter and therefore did appeale from hir false sentence vnto the iust iudgment of God. I knowe this processe will seme strange vnto you: But more strage wil you finde that by the which diuers catholicks wer lately executed. You haue alredey heard how she prouoked the Prince of Orange and the Count Lodowick to mak warre against the King of Spayne procuring them to tak sundry Towns, also how she sent sundry Frenchmen vnto Monts by the Kings precept & aduow signed with his maiesties owen hand. Now that she hath attayned to the end of hir interprise, she forsaketh the Count Lodowick, whereupon he was forced to yeld the towne of Monts aforesaid, which by hir meanes he had surprised, and so to commit him self into his enemies hands, among whome he found more fidelity, then with hir he suld haue done: For about the sametyme also she wrait vnto the Lord of Monflo a germanyn, whom before she had appoynted to serue the Prince of Orange with a Regimēt of horsmen, willing him to murder the said Prince, and then to retein in to what part of France so euer him self suld thinke best: howbeit he wald not heirin satisfie hir desire; but persauing that in case he serued there any longer, he suld lose the Kingis pay, hauing first aduertised the Prince of Orange of this goodly commission, he withdrew him self into Germany.

many, wherby the Princes army was greatly shak-
ken and him self in manifest danger: The lyke
practise had she before moued vnto Schomberge
an vther Germaine who also suld haue repaired
vnto the said prince, with 4000. Reisters at the
Kingis pay, willing him to haue executed y^e same
spedily after the great murther committed. Is
not this therefore plaine deceit and treason,
cōspired in all places without feir of infamy? Se
how now she hath, by meanes heirof gotten two
enemies for one, also that notwithstanding the
one of them semeth neuer so small, yet a state,
how strong soeuer it be, suld auoyd all waik ene-
mies, much more then ought ours so to do, being
thus dilacerated and torne in peaces as it is. Also
as if the iniuries done vnto the King of Spaine,
whome by surprises she had assailed, euen against
the peace, during the tyme of his warres against
the Turcke, wer easie to be recompenced, she dis-
patched certaine Regimentis of souldiers vnto
the passages, to slay those men, who according to
the forme of composition, came back frō Monts,
whither the King had sent them for his seruice.
But heire by the way, I wald faine knowe if this
warre wer iust, why was it not continewed? why
did thay not persew such likelyhoodes as there
wer, at the least wise, in case thay will no longer
prosecute the same, yet vpon what occasion do
thay slay those, who at the Kingis expres com-
mandement went thither? Is it treason to obey
the King, to go in his seruice, so to venture lyfe
at his commandement? In case the war be vn-
iust, or that thair be no sufficient caus to dissolue
the peace, wherefore haue thay then infringed
the same? Vpon what occasion haue thay lea-

Queene Mo-
ther sendeth
to slay those
who had
bene at
Monts.

whither? Is it the dewtie of the souldiers or of the Capitaines, nay of the Capitaines or of the prince to examine whether his warre be lawfull or no? Is it so small a mater to mak the King of Spaine our enemye? Haue we not sufficiently tryed his forces? Is our strength so mightely increased within these dosen yeeres whilest we haue one murdered an other? or is his power so greatly decayed through any notable losse which he hath susteyned? I pray you where be now the mē which sould withstād him? the money wherewith to pay them? or the allyances whereupon we must depend? But we force not at whose coist we be reuenged: we wey not whome we do offend, so that we may slay all those whose deathis we do desire. If the King of Spaine sould inuaid our dominions, ruin to morow nixt, being so desolate and destitute of men as it is, we wald not care: for as much vnto vs is the Spanyard as the Frenchman: Did we not once forecast, in case our Children sould die, how to translate contrary to the Salick law, the kingdome of Frāce vnto the King of Spaine? If we might rute out the Nobilitie, & satisfie our owne appetites, it wer aneugh, whatsoeuer might afterward happen. The King of Spaine is our Sonne in Law, yet will we mak no great accompt of our faith toward him, no more then toward others, for which caus, he will no dout in tyme to cum well recompence our kingdome, & God grant that these great preparations which presently he maketh, tend not to seik reuenge. The Quene of England is our good Neighbour, sister & allye, yet haue we interprised during the league by motioning a mariage vnto hir, to trouble, molest,

Quene Med
ther cōtinge
eth amitie
with no neg
tion.

lest, and consume hir whole estate and Kingdome. We speake of allyancis with the Princes of Germany, but now do they account vs Schelmes, vnworthy of all communication or fellowship among men. The Zuitzers haue bene our auncient confederats, yet now by reason of our dastardlynes they are at the point, abandoning our service to ally them selues vnto the King of Spayne. All men which desire well to gouerne thair estates, do to thair powers strengthen the same with the amyty of thair borderers: Iudge ye therfore whether this accursed woman seketh ought but the destruction of ours, seing that dayly she offereth new occasions of enemyty, hatred, and warre against vs. During these matters, it semeth to hir that the Protestantis partlie was quite ouerthiowen and dispatched, thair capitans brought to ground, thair people half murdered and in manner all thair cieties taken. Only Rochell is left to them as a harborow which for feare of Murthers durst not receiue garison but standeth vpon hir auncient priuiledges, seing also that the King in the beginning had written that the Lordis of Guise had procured the spoyle at Paris and maid no mentiō of the conspiracy, we must now therefore nedis go and besiedge it, but after what manner? I pray you mark still how she draweth neir to hir purpose. To this siedge she causeth all the French Nobility on both partes: hither causeth she all the Lordis of France to march, namely the Lordis of Guise, part of the house of Monmorency, the Dukes of Longueuille, Bouillon, and Vzes, with the rest of the princes of the blood: yea to the end that none might pretend any excuse,

The siege of
Rochell.

she brought thither, euen my Lordis his own children: neither brought she them simply vnto the siege; to the end by thair presence to astonish the Rochelers, or to set a good face on the matter, but also did dayly expose the vnto all labours & hazardes, in so much that euery man might sone persuaue how desirous she was of thair deathis, & slaughters: as among vthers, the Lordis of Guise may well say thair mindis, who do plainly know what small accout was maid of the death of ther kinsma the late duke de Aumale: other gentlemē can likewise report, what lamentations she maid ouer y^e deid carcases of their coequals there slayn, as this. This man did not amusse in suffering himself to be slayne, for as well he did owe more the he was worth. Againe: That man made his will before he came forth, such as wer thair presēt do better know my meaning. Also it is not ynknowē what cōsul was there holden, touching the celebration of an vther S. Bartlemew wherein wer cō-
 printed, The King of Nauarre, the Prince of Cō-
 de (who neuer theles had thair most valiatly beha-
 ued the selues) the Dukes of Longueuil & Bouil-
 lon, the Marshal de Cosse, Mōsieur de Mera, Mō-
 sieur de Biron, the Lord Stozzi Colonel of the in-
 fantery, with many vthers who wer neuer slak in
 venturing thair liues in thair Princis affairs: and
 all this was deuised by the counsall and aduise of
 the Quene mother & hir County de Rhetz (who
 in the meane tyme, found opportunite at Ro-
 chel to fauour him self and thair reason was, be-
 caus that so long as in France thair remained a-
 ny noble mē, or mighty persons fauoured by the
 Nobilitie, the King suld neuer want cōtrowlers,

Talk concea-
 nig the mur-
 der of cer-
 taine Catho-
 like Lordes
 at Rochell.

and therefore by one meanes or vther they must all be rooted out, and not they only, but also all those who do fauour or follow them: and yet say they, notwithstanding all this, there shalbe no war of Nobilitie, in as much as thay may sone finde out both Italiens and Frenchmen anew, whome in case thay wald giue vnto them all the possessions of the Realme, thay suld mightely bind vnto thair owen deuotions. This thair deuise haue often bene blowen into our Kinges eares, & I pray God that we se it not shortly put in execution. Well, finally after the losse of the flour of our Capitaines and souldiers, with diuers famous gentulmen, and after the burdening of the commons with new exactions toward the maintenance of this seige, yet must we againe grant the peace, confirme thair priuiledges, and permit the exercise of thair Religion: Had it not bene to vs a more ready and short way at the first to haue left them in quiet, seing they do vs no harme, rather then thus to haue procured the deathis of so many vertuous and valiant persons? After the returne from this syedge, the Catholick Lordis & gentlemen were for the most part wery of these ciuill battails, vnto the which they were against their willis constrained to cum: The Protestantis wer so weakened and brought downe, that now they wished only to liue with libertie of conscience in sum tollerable rest: The pure people did begin to soone the charges of the wars, & to seik redres of the taxes and subsidies, specially in Languedoc, Guyen, Doulphine and Prouence, Notwithstanding that those contries wer not so vntollerably burdened, as diuers vthers wer: Gene-
rally

rally the whole Realme of France desired that the estates might be holden whereby, to take order for such things as to the whole Kingdome were necessarie and requisite: But the Quene mother who only in a maner was of that opinion, did to hir power eschew the same, as an examination of hir gouernment, which had reduced the Kingdome into manifest danger of destruction: But in as much as the refusall of them was very dangerous, for feare of prouoking the people, she maid them a promise, putting them in hope and appointed them a certaine day at Compiene, notwithstanding that in the meane tyme she determined so to molest the whole Realme, that their sould remaine none, which once durst againe call for the keeping of the same. And in case through the importunitie of the people she were compelled to hold them, then was she fully resolved to call thither all the noble and mighty men, who might not refuse to come, and vpon them to celebrate a new S. Bartlemew: hereof therefore to set a good countenance, she permitteth no particular estates in the prouinces to be holden according vnto the which they might prepare and frame their buks against the generals, for she feareth least both Catholickis and protestantes considering their dispositions wold agree vpon matters touching the common welth but doth send out sundrey gentlemen after the maner of a quest of inquiry to vnderstand of the complaintis of the commonalty and of the same to make report vnto hir: In the meane tyme consider hir practises (methincketh I do behold hir onckle Clement the seueneth promysing generall counsaill, and yet still

inter-

intermingling continuall and most bloody warres, betuix all Christiane Princes, whereby to hinder and stop the same.

Interprise against Rochell which was to hinder the houlding of the Estates.

The Quene Mother commandeth the Lords of Puygalliard and Andereau to inuent sum policie to surprise the Cierie of Rochell which with all expedition thay do go about, and to the same end hauing practised sindry both souldiers and Burgeses of the same Towne, thay suld haue caused the garisons of S. Iohn de Angely, Nion, and Angolefine to haue at the nixt reuiew marched ynto la Fonds, a Village not farre of, and thence by break of the nixt day in the Cierie, by a gate which their practised freindis suld set open.

About the same tyme also that this deuise suld haue bene put in execution, the late King & the Quene his Mother lay at Chantilly, ready to apprehend the Duke of Mommorency in his owne hous. Thay had also laid an vther traine to intrappe the Marshall de Anuill, but he smelling out the same, put to death sindry of the practisers vnder pretence that thay interprised against Montpillier where he then sojourned. Thair commissions also directed through all France concerning the men of Armes, vnder cullour of the warres in Languedoc notwithstanding the trew was not yet expired.

The County de Rhetz also practised a leuying of men in Germany through the helpe of four thousand Frankes which he had transported thither, part whereof came afterward to the handes of County Lodowik wherewith he did arreare wars against the King of Spaine in hope also to haue surprised Mastricht and Antwerp both the

Towne

Towne and Castell. God thairfore pietying this
 our miserable estate, stirred vp one gentelman of
 the same consideracie, who being preuy to al the
 generall murther already concluded vpon, and to
 the rooting out of the most auncient and Noble
 famelyes throughout the Realme, notwithstanding
 he wes a Catholicke, yet did discouer part
 of these interprises vnto the Rochelers by two
 seuerall letters which he directed vnto them, v-
 pon which warning thay tuke better head vnto
 them selues and apprehended certaine of the same
 conspiracie. Now thairfore I pray you, what
 doth our good Quene when she vnderstode this
 practise to be discouered: haue you not hard how
 before, she caused to slay all the Protestantis at
 thair returne from Monts, whome hir self & the
 King had set on worke? The lyke rewarde doth
 she bestowe vpon the Rochellers, wryting vnto
 the Gouvernours of the Cietie, that neither the
 King, neither hir self wer euer accessary to this co-
 federacie, and thairfore by Monsieur de S. Sup-
 plice, she giueth them to vnderstand that thay ca-
 not do vnto hir any more acceptable seruice, the
 with al extremitie to punish all those which suld
 be found gyltie of this cryme, as infringers of the
 peace & perturbbers of the comō quiet: Was not
 this (suppose you) a good recōpence for thair pai-
 nes? Venture your liues at hir pleasure, for in case
 you misse of your purpose, she will hang you for
 your labors: All these mē in their examinatioṃs,
 affirmed & steidfastly cōfessed hir to be their set-
 ter on. And to say the treuth, preserly vpo^r y^r dis-
 couery of this, euē the nixt day she begā an vther
 causing to wryt vnto one whose Father had bene
 maior of Rochell.

which came not so sone to light: And althoght in both those practises she still missed of Rochell, yet wer they not interpreted in vayne: For if ye remember, she feared the assembly of the estatis, but now the protestantis hearing of these dealyngis, begā in Poictow to arme the selues for the preseruatiō of thair liues, whose exāple sindry Normāns fearing the lyke danger to the selues, did imitate.

Thus was the Realme once againe troubled, whereby she had, as she supposed, a lawfull occasion not to assemble the Estates. Vntill this tyme had she kept on a maske of Religion, dealing directly with none but Protestantis, notwithstanding that those, who more narrowly sifted hir doings, espyed the hipocrisie which appeared through hir viserd. Now thairfore she persauing the cheifest and most Noble of the Protestantis almost extinguished, & that there remained but as it were a handfull of them: she taketh and ioyneth directly against the Catholickes them selues, but not all at once, for sum must serue as hangmen vnto the rest, and so the one may most cruelly execute the vther.

Queene Mother directly against the Catholickes.

The most earnest Catholickes in France had mislyked of these dealinges, namely that in place of faithfully & vprightly mayntayning the peace so solemnly made and sworne vnto, during the continuance whereof they doubted not but that many of the Protestantis might by preachinges and exhortacions be reuoked to thair ancient religion, also that by a lawfull counsell and assembly of the estatis, the people might be reunyted againe into mutuall loue and freindshippe, now men had gottin recourse vnto cruell murderis,
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disloyall dealingis, and trayterous trecheries, by
 meanes wherof, both the contry and Nation were
 becume odious vnto all the world and to speake
 vprightly, during the most heates of the slaugh-
 ters aforenamed, the cheifest catholickis did pre-
 serue so many of the protestantis, as possibly they
 might, vpon which occasion, she often said, that
 she had not supposed that the subiects had borne
 so small affection vnto the King, but that she had
 alwayis perswaded hir self that at his cōmande-
 ment they wald haue slayn all without exceptiō,
 in so much that who so wold serch who were the
 executioners, he shall finde (except a few which
 practised thair owen reuengis) none but rascalls,
 who in hope of spoyle, not regarding frō whence
 it came, & a few blasphemers of God, cōtemners
 of all religion, who slew both Catholickis and
 Protestantis, one among an vther, either for ther
 goods, or els vpon sum malice and hatred, or pro-
 ces which they had against them, to haue bene
 partakers in this slaughter.

Who were
 the executi-
 oners of the
 murthers at
 Paris.

Yea the Quene, who knew well enough that
 the most part of the mighty men of this Kingdōe
 did detest and abhor these hir so horrible mischi-
 fes, durst not open vnto the hir driftis: But chose
 only the Duke of Neuers & the Countie de Rhets
 to be conductors of the same both men assuredly
 worthy so high & valeant an exploite, both stran-
 gers and therefore not suspected of any affection
 to the contry: Italyens, who do tryumpe in trea-
 son: in murthering men in thair bedds: and slay-
 ing men comming behind them, or taking all ad-
 uantage possible: one of them being of the famely
 of Gonzague of al antiquitie allyed vnto the Spa-
 nyardis

hyardes against this Kingdome, and him selfe
 this present pensioner vnto the said king of Spaine:
 The vther a very Varlet, growen vp through
 bauderies and ruffianly behauiour, who seiketh
 nothing but the extirpation of the Nobilitie,
 which is enemie to his villany, yea and is not a-
 shamed, notwithstanding all the welth whereun-
 to he hath attayned in this Kingdome, to become
 neuertheles pencioner vnto the King of Spaine.
 But as touching the Duke of Guise, when the
 King first motioned vnto him the murdering
 of the Admirall after that maner, it is well kno-
 wen that he made answer how that he coulde not
 finde in his hart after that sort to be reuenged:
 howbeit if it pleased his Maiestie, according to his
 Authoritie, to commit them bothe into a close
 seild, man to man, then wold God shew in the
 end who had right or committed wrong, neuer-
 theles, through thair importunacie he was final-
 ly brought to condescend thereunto, but with so-
 lempne protestation that it was only for his obe-
 dience sake vnto the King: and in deid him selfe
 saued diuers gentilmen, and withheld his whole
 gouernment from all slaughters. There wer also
 many Lordes who maid open protestation that
 they mislyked of these so extrême cruelties, and
 ythers who fled the Court least they shuld seme
 partakers in so pernicious counsaills: seing also
 that thay had plainly perceaued at the seige of
 Rochel, where thay had bene, that Religion was
 no longer the occasion, and that hir viscerd being
 pulled of, thay se that she sought by one meanes
 or vther, nothing but to bring the whole Nobili-
 tie to destruction. Of this number wer the Lor-
 des of Mommorencie, the Marthall de Cossé and

The Duke of
 Guise is loth
 after anye
 such maner
 to slaye the
 Admirall.

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others who becaus thay had not wet thair bla
 des so largely in French blood as was wished, nei
 ther vowed them selues to the Quēnes party by
 sum notable wickednes, were accounted among
 the capitall enēemies: and of them, thair seruants,
 and deirest freindis, wald she be dispatched with
 all speid possible. Thay had escaped vpon Sanct
 Barthelmewes day: afterward Moureuēt the mā
 slayer, being by the Quene hyred, was comman
 ded at Fountainebelean to kill the Duke of Mō
 morencie: an vther tyme thay watched the said
 Duke with a certaine number of horses in the
 Forest of Soyfos: and in case she had bene, at the
 instant request of the people, compelled to keip
 the Estates, she was resolved thair to intrap the.
 Finally about this tyme, they came to wait vpon
 the King, vnto Boys de Vincennes, whither (saith
 she) his Maiestie vnder pretence of his seruice cal
 led them for the establisshing of his Kingdome:
 neither came thay thither, as being ignorant of
 thair enēemies determinations, for already thay
 had sufficient experiēce of thair myndes, but tru
 sting in their owen innocencie, they referred the
 rest vnto God, whome thay tuke for thair sheild,
 seing it pleased thair Prince to call the, & to open
 vnto the his mynd, to y end to know thair aduise
 in maters cōcerning the vniuersall cōmoditie of
 thair cōuntry. But there remained yet one let, tū
 hindred y executiō of any interprise aganis their
 persons, & y was this, that my Lord the Marshall
 de Anuill was in Languedoc, who in case he suld
 heir or know any thing heirof, had meānes ano
 ugh to be reuenged: he about the same time had
 sent Monsieur de Montalere, the maister of his
 Cape, to moue the King to send succour aswel of

Aninterprise
 against the
 hous of Mō
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 others.

Aninterprise
 against the
 Marshall de
 Colle.

money as men, to mainteyn the warre against the protestantis in Languedock wherunto the quene answered all in contraries, namely that ther was no more to do but to harken after peace, affirming that the King at what price so euer it wer, was very desirous of the same, wherefore she desired the said Monsieur de Anuille to trauel earnestly thairin; and not to refuse the opinion and aduise of the Cardinal of Armignac, who was resident in Auignon.

Within a while she sent vnto him the Lordes of S. Suplice and of Villeroy the Secretary of the Kingis commandementis, vnder cullctur to agree vpon a peace, but in deid, to deuise sum meanes with the Lordes of Ioyeuse, Maugeron and Furguenaux, how to sease vpon his person, and to apprehend him either dead or in lyfe.

The Duke
of Mommo
rencey put in
all trust by
the King.

While this practise was in hand, the King commendeth all his affairis vnto the Duke of Mommorency, and putteth all into his handis; desiring him that as the faithfullest seruant whome he knoweth within his dominions, and one whom he loueth, not as a brother in law, but as a naturall brother, he wald deuise sum meanes how to pacifie his estate. The Quene also assureth him that the King will no longer be gouerned other then by his aduise, also that whatsoeuer Artickles salbe proponed, the same is his Maiestie minded to grant vnto his subiectis, and to be breif, she appointeth him arbitre in all thinges.

This order continewed a while, euen vntill such tyme as the King, who since his iorney vnto Vitry whither he cōducted the King of Pole had scarce had his health, began to waxe worse and worse,

worse, and to become very leane and to faull a way, whereupon the Philitions conceaued but small hope of his recouerie, and wer it that they iudged him to be consumed with poiso (ordinarely tearmed a pike sauce) or vtherwise, yet surely they assured the Quene that he wold hardly escape the moneth of Aprill. Hir suithsaiers in whō she reposed great cōfidēce, wer of the same minde wherfore it was time to prouid against the chāge. She had of long tyme perceaued that my lord the Duke hir sone condemned hir treasons and cruelties, and misliked of that, that she maid so small account of the roting out of the nobilitie, and of maynteyning the warris for the same purpose, vnto the great detrimēt of the people, and in manner the vtter destruction of the whole Realme, for the same caus she hated this his so gentle, manifest, and assured french nature, nothing comparable vnto hir, which delited in nothing but ruine and desolation. Againe, she perceaued that in eace the King deit (as it was no vther lyke) the whole regiment of the Kingdome, by right appertained vnto him during the absence of the King of Poole, as being the next of the blood, & liuetenant vnto the King Charles in all the lands of his obedience. Also thair was no likelihood of the King of Pooles speidy returne, for the Poloners had before his coronatiō forced him to sweare, that vpon no occasiō what soeuer, yea in case the King his brother died, yet suld not he in any wise forsake thē. Againe they had bene at great charge before he culd be brought thether, and are people which will haue all promyses kept. Also the way is tedious, his person weak, and no small

Slanders raised to bring the Duke de Alençon into contempt & vpo what occasion.

danger to depart, without bidding them farewell. To get therefore the gouernment againe into his owen handis, & thereof to deprive my said Lord the Duke his sonne, vnto whome the Lawes of the Realme and all auncient customes did before giue the same, she determined with conuenient speid to bring him into the hatred of the Catholikes, through scanders and fals reportis, affirming that at the same tyme that the Protestantes had againe taken wepon in hand, he had gotten intelligence with the, vnder colour whereof she causeth to tak the wepons from his gard, procuring him to be narrowly looked vnto, and keipeth him as it wer prisoner at Boys de Vincennes aforenamed, and with him the King of Nauarre. This did she not tearme flatly a prison, for that word had bene to odious, notwithstanding that, he coulde not go forth without a gard vnto whome she gaue most straight charge ouer him, whereby he durst talk with no man, but was so straightly watched, as to tell his steppes & count his words, and the weaker that the King waxed, the more occasions found she to restrain him of his liberty whereby this young Prince, being of a coragious and valeant mynde, consydering that his owen mother vsed such extremitie toward him, grew into such dispayre, that he determined to withdraw him self vnto the Countie Lodowick of Nasaw with a few of his household seruantis, & the caus why he chose that place to go vnto rather the any vther, as to haue gon into Englad, where as not long since thair was a marriage motioned for him: was becaus he wold not remaine in any place, where his abode might procure suspicion, what

The Duke de
Alençon im-
prisoned.

The Duke de
Alençon de-
termined to
goe to the
County Lo-
dowick.

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92
what league soeuer thair wer, but he chose rather
to be in some place wher he might do ynto his
brother some acceptable seruice: For about the
same tyme The Countie Lodowick had an armye
of Germaines in the Kingis pay vpon the borders
of Brabant, which the Countie of Rhetz had new-
ly brought vnto him, wherewithall to continue
warre against the King of Spaine, and had recea-
ued of the said Countie de Rhetz, two hundreth
and fourty thousand franckes, notwithstanding
his commission stretched to deliuer a whole hun-
dred thousand crownes, but the rest he reserued
to by him self pinnis. Besides that, ynder his ma-
iesties warrāt two thousand french fute-men wer
marching toward his succour, whome the gouer-
nours of Metz, Thou, Verdune, and vthers the
principall frontier Towns, did quietly permit to
depart from thair banners with thair furniture
ynder the charge of Capitane Brazet a Germain
and of Monsieur de Etthe, according to a treaty
sundrie tymes motioned vnto the said Lord, the
Countie Lodouik by Iohne Valcas Fragoze and
with the King in the Name of the Prince of O-
renge by the Lord of Humbres. This interprise
being discouered semed a reasonable occasion
more straightly to restraints this pure Prince, and
in steid of publisheing the treuth, she perseuered
in dispersing a thousand slanders, for hir whole
drifte was at the death of the King to be sure of
his person: She also at the same tyme sealed vpon
hir Sone in law, the King of Nauarr, and for that
the Prince of Conde, was at his gouernment in
Picardy, whither the King had before sent him,
notwithstanding he were not participant or of

G. ij.

knowledge

the King of
Nauarre
was
prisoned.

The King of
Nauarre
was
prisoned.

The King of
Nauarre
was
prisoned.

An interprise
against the
Prince of
Conde.

knowledge in this interprise, yet sent the hie letters vnto the Cardinall of Cregny and Monsieur de Creuecoeur Lieutenant to the said Prince, for to apprehend him in Amyens, where he was then resident, wryting also vnto the Maior of the said Cietie, with the help of the cōmons, to assist the, in somuch that had he not mistrusted sumthing, aswell by the wordes which he hard of the Post, as also by such preparatiues as he perceaued, he had bene prisoner so well as the rest: But he with drew him self to his hous at Muret vnder cullour of going on hunting, whereas hearing that my Lord the Duke de Alençon and the King of Nauarre wer in hold, he tuke his iorney toward Germany, and passing by Fere gaue warning to Monsieur de Thore who vnderstading that thay both had and did lay handes vpon the principall seruantis belonging to my Lord the Duke asore-said, fearing least him self suld be one of the first that suld be sought for, he determined to departe the Realme.

Slanders raised
against
the Duke de
Alençon con-
cerning a new
conspira-
cie.

Thus was the whole treuth of the mater, neither wer thay euer vtherwise determined: Marke therefore, how this agreth with such thingis as she wald perswade the world. Thair was saith she a great conspiracy found out: my Lord the Duke de Alençon was minded to haue fled to the protestantis and so to haue molested the whole Realme: By these reportis he became odious among the catholickis: Againe he determined to renege the bloody Saint Barthelmews feast at Paris, & vpon Easterday during high mes, he wald haue set fyre in sundry places of the Cietie, wherby to bring it al into ashes. These deuises haue brought him

him into displeasure in the capitall Cietie of the Realme, and so consequently in all the rest: Thus doth she pretend to attein vnto hir purpose.

The protestantis, when she went about to murder them, had conspired: so had now these pure princes, becaus they might be kept prisoners, and that thair liues suld remaine in hir handis, whereby they wer to be ordered as might best stād with maintenance of hir tiranny: you did se Briquemault and Cauannes openly executed, to the end to set some shew vpon the conspiracy of the Admirall and to iustifie the feast of Sainct Barthelme: euen so might you heir haue sene the execution of the Countie Coconnaz, Monsieur de la Maule and vthers, whereby to couler the imprisonment of these pure Princes.

I pray you let vs diligently examine this mater, and not to be led with euery report: Let vs so open our eyes, as that the mistes of these iuglers may no longer abuse our sight with contrary thingis. In case this conspiracy be trew, then must we in deuour most greuously to punish the conspirators: but if it be fals, the ought we to our powers to deliuer our Princes from being oppressed with slanders: It is our partes to open the prisons, to tak the irons from thair leggis, and to restore the vnto the degre which of right belögerth vnto the: For this caus be we in armes, and thairfore we are bound to deuyde the fals pretence of thair imprisonment from the trew caus, the slander frō the accusation, and the cullour of Iustice from the euident iniury offered vnto them.

My Lord the Duke (say thay) hath intelligēce with the Protestantis through the counsal of Mōs

This mater
better
mined.

A confutati-
on of these
slanders.

G. iij.

ſieur de

ſieur de Thore, the Vicounte of Thurenne, the
County of Coconnaz, and Monsieur de la Mau-
le: Consider I pray you whome he hath choſen
for his counſallours in theſe affairis.

Monsieur de Thore, Son to my late Lord the
Conſtable, one who hath bene preſent in moſte
battallis againſt the Proteſtantis, wherein he hath
ſo behau'd him ſelfe, that thair is no man, who
doeth not count him one of the moſt affectionat
and deuore Catholickes in this Realme.

The Vicount of Thurenne his Nephewe, a young
Lord, Catholickly brought vp eue fro his youth,
who in the view of all men wrought wonders at
the ſiege of Rochell, whome now, for a recom-
pence, they cauſe Monsieur de Maguaue to perſew
a hundreth leagues, whereby to intrap him.

The County de Coconnaz who was alſe earneſt
as any vther in the murther of S. Barthelmew, &
conducted all the Mynes at Rochell, wherein he
ſo trauelled that all men thought him worthy
of reward. Monsieur de la Maule who wiſe
was wounded & was a dayly hearer of Meſſe yea,
euen in the middeſt of the warres, and among all
the courtly corruptions, which had he miſſed of
but one day, he wald haue doubted of ſum great
miſchief that day hanging ouer his head.

I ſpeake onely of ſuch men as all the world did
know, neither wryte I any thing which all ſuch
as had any dealings at the Courte will not teſtifie.
But becauſe my Lord the Duke loued them, they
muſt be the firſt talked withall.

Wer not theſe, thinke you, meit men to haue
counſayled any ſuch intelligencēs with the Pro-
teſtantis? Now whereunto did this intelligence
end.

send. To the burning (say they) of the Cierie of Paris; in reuenge of the murthers of the Protestantis. Those men, who all thair life tymes haue at all assayes warred against the Protestatis, who with the hazard of thair liues haue continually indeuored to root them out, will now in danger them selues in thair reuenge. This is a likely matter. Againe, in case they had bene thus minded: wald thay haue delt against the Burgeses of Paris, among whome they haue innumerable frendis of all qualities, who but to thair great griefe, did not behould these cruelties, and amög whome could be found none but raskals to deale therin? Had it not bene farre more reasonable to haue dispatched (seing thay wer so bent) thre or foure strangers which gaue the counsall, framed the practise, and wer partly the executioners of the same. But peraduenture it was an easy matter to bring thair purpose to pas in Paris: That iudge you: seing it is the best inhabited Cierie in Christendome, replenished with gentlemen, and at no tyme destitute of souldiers, into the which, an enemy with forty thousand men, notwithstanding the gates wer left open, durst hardly venture to cum.

What preparations wer thair I pray you foud, concerning any suche interprise? For if it suld (according to thair sayings) haue bene put in execution the next day after thair apprehension, then do these men well, to put nothing in wryting, least they shoulde reprove them selues of falshood, and thereby to satisfie thair owen fantasies, by abusing the people with false reportes, which they publike in publicke places

The Proces
against the
Couty Co-
connaz and
Monsieur de
a Maule.

and markets: haue thay I beseich you discovered any nûber of extraordinary souldiers in the Cietie? Of that I refer my self vnto the cõmon counsell, who custumably haue particular aduertisements of such as do daylie aryue in euery quarter of the same. Haue thay found in any of thair houses whome thay haue apprehended, any weapons hidden vp? any wyld or artificiall fyre, or such lyke thingis? To be breif, haue thay discovered in any corner, streit, or hous in all the Cietie, any likely hood of that which thay wald make the people to beleue, to the end to bring into hatred this pure Prince, who beareth harrie good will vnto them, and vnto all vther his affectionat seruantis? You will peraduenture tell me that my Lordes of the Court of Parliament wald not haue condempned suche a man without lawfull caus. But who so is of that mynde, is ignorant what tyrannie meaneth. Our owen liues ar more deir vnto vs, then any vther bodies. In the world thair be but few so valiant, as to refuse to condempne an innocent to death, in case (to force the thairto) the knyfe be holden ready ouer thair throts. But aske the saidis Lordes of that Court, whereof thay haue deriued thair proces, whither thay haue confessed any thing that was laid to thair charges, whither thay haue hard any one witnes, or whither thay haue found any coniecture or presumption: Assuredly thair is none of them all, but priuately will say, no. We may well think that thay, whose wyfes, Children, goodes, yea and thair owen perions do remaine at Paris wald willingly haue proceeded against those which went about to burne the vp: wheras
contrary.

contrarywise, when these Iudges wer expressly com-
manded to put them to death, thay sent to the
King to declair vnto him that in these men thay
found no sufficient caus of condempnation, af-
firming that thay had examined them, and seue-
rally sounded them so deip as might be, but culd
get no vther of them, sauing that thay wer very
willing to setue & obey my Lord the Duke thair
maister, in his determinatiō to retein to the Cou-
nty Lodowick: also for asmuch as the King had
neuer proclaimed him his enemye, thay culd not
vpon this simple confession in conscience con-
dempne them to death: whereunto the Quene
answered saying, that thay must neuertheles dye,
vtherwise the King will not be well pleased. Heir
may you se a goodly forme of procedingis: who
so is determined to put any man to death fall at
all tymes finde caus sufficient. Well heir vpon
she found this prety shift to ease the consciences
of the said Lordes of the Court, namely that se-
ing thair was no vther caus wherefore thay shuld
dye, the King wald declair vnto them, that he at
all tymes compted the County Lodowick for his
enemye: and in deid she caused to be dispatched
such letters signed with the Kingis hād, for thair
discharge, which wer layd vp in the bottome of
thair proces bagge. Heir vpon were these pure
gentilmen condempned as gyltie of felony (with-
out originall of the processe) as being a capitall
cryme of the Vassall against his Lord whereby to
bring them into greater hatred among all men.

Consider I pray you, how now a dayes a court
of Parliament is forced to bow vnto Tyrannie.

The Law condempneth to death such as flee to
the

The exami-
nation of
their procees.

the enemy. That is truth: But he must first be
houlden and proclaimed an enemy. Now in case
the Courts of Parliament who haue the liues of
men in their handis, and therefore shuld knowe
things, be ignorant that the Countie Lodowick
is the Kings enemy, may not therefore the Coun-
ty Coconuz, la Maule, and vther particular gen-
tlemen, affectionate seruants to their Masters,
iustly be ignorant thereof againe when as contra-
rwise, in a place of open war or ennemie, they
see that the King sendeth daylie worshipful Em-
bassadours to deuise of their secreit intelligences,
he receaueth fro thence ordinarily messengers, he
furnisheth coyne to raise an army of Resters a-
gainst his brother in law the King of Spain, by
hands of the Countie de Rhets a Marthal of France,
one who is cheif about his person, appointeth their
Colonels and Rester masters by the meanes of
Beegose to be his pensioners, and furnisheth
Mets, Thow, Verdune, and vther coaste Townes
for their succour (I will not here speak of the in-
terprises against Mastricht & Antwerp both the
Towne & Castel, wherein they might haue some
secreit dealings) had not they the iust cause to be-
lieue that the King accounted him his freind, and
therefore might lawfully follow their master in-
to his seruice, seeing also y^e before the murder of
S. Bart. the King had spoken vnto the said Lord y^e
Duke, of creating him general in the wars of the
low countries against the King of Spain, through
the meanes of the Prince of Orange & his brother
the Countie Lodowick, & that euen lately not a
moneth since, the Queene againe had talked with
him about the same, according vnto certaine pro-
positions

positions of the said County Lodowik. It shal, be-
 like, be now lawfull whensoever they be dispo-
 sed to put any man to death, for to alledge ꝑ he
 hath conferred with an enemy to the Realm, &
 then to declair sū one of his freindis, an enemy,
 expressly thereby to condempne him: wherefore the
 do they not proceed aganis the marshal de rhets,
 Galeaz, Fregose, & many others, who haue payed
 the money into his owen hands for the prosecu-
 ting of this war? Be not they far more culpable
 the these pure gentilmē? In case any will deale so
 rigorously with the, can they excuse the selues,
 vnles the strangers, in our Realme do liue vnder
 any other law then our owē Princes, & that trea-
 son in sū be innocency, & in other sū innocency
 be treason? But to be breif thair was no remedy
 but they must dye contrary to all equitie for the
 Quene wald neidis perswade that, notwithstanding
 thair was no such likelyhood, yet this pure
 Prince had cōspired, by this meanes to bring him
 into all mens hatred, & to finde sū pretēce, wher-
 by, in case the Kingis death, which is affirmed to
 draw neir, shuld happen, to haue him in straight &
 sure keeping. Yet was not this sufficiēt. For if the
 deteineth my lord the Duke hir sōne prisoner, &
 ꝑ king chāce to dye, the chief officers of the crow-
 might perhaps withstand hir, becaus all right of
 regimēt ouer the Realme appertaineth vnto him,
 until the returne of the king of Poole, & therefore
 wald not (as she feareth) suffer hir to accōplish the
 destruction of this pure and desolate Kingdōe of
 Frāce, through hir ordinary cruelties & misheifs.
 She hath therefore cōcluded to lay hald vpo their
 persōs, to the end ther may remaine none which
 might be so

bald, as once to open his mouth and alledge the ancient lawes which at all tymes haue bene practised in this Realme. She hath already the Marshals Mommorencie and de Cosse at the Court, as it wer in hir hands, neuertheles before she layeth any hould vpon them, she must heire sum tydingis of the interprise begun against the person of my Lord the Marshall de Anuil thair brother and confederate.

The Marshall de Anuil aduertised of embusshment against him.

The Marshall apprehended.

During therefore these thingis, thair came a Poist out of Languedock, who shewed hir that this interprise was cunningly framed, from the which it will be vnpossible for him to escape: But as God wald, being onward of his iorney, he was aduertised of an embushe layd for him, and so returned incontinently. In the meane tyme the Quene, who thought him sure aneugh, in a morning, caused to apprehend the Marshals Mommorencie, and de Cosse, and presently to conuey them to the Bastile, with a Dromme stricken vnder before them in skorne, and many reprochefull wordes of the people, as against infamous and most criminall persons: Also at the same tyme, she dispatched certaine companyes to apprehend Monsieur de Meru thair brother and Soné in law, but a lytle before he was gone from his hous, & thairfore thay apprehended such of his seruants as thay culd finde.

An confutation of the slanderis against them

If you demand what these pure Lordes haue done, wherefore they deserue such intertainmēt, she will answer that they also haue conspired against thair Maiesties, and haue interprised against the Kingis owen person: for thus hath she caused the King to wryte to all the Gouvernours of his

of his Prouinces : and now fall you se the likelihoodis. You may almost gesse how long it is since that this drifte against the Marshall de Anuill was begun. If it wer for this conspiracy that she wald apprehend him among the rest, as thay do giue furth that it was, then belike the same was dyscouered before thair wer any commission to take him: If it wer disclosed, then suld the King by al reason haue furnished himself thair against, vpon far les occasions hath he strengthened his Gardes afore tyme: At the least wise, it was not meit that he suld comit his lyfe into thair hands which indeuoured to take the same from him. But mark I pray you whither he tuke any head, whither he mistrusted any thing, yea whither he hath any, euen the least mynd in the world thaire of? All this tyme Monsieur de Mommorency is about his Maiesties person at Boys de Vincennes, he goeth where he liste, he doth what please him, he commandeth the Garde of the Kingis owen persō, who ar expresly charged to obey him, he hath the keis of the Castle in his own handis, he giueth the watch word, he hath as full auctoritie as a Constable may haue, yea euen the night before he was apprehended. Is not this then to hould furth his throat to whome soeuer will cut the same? Is not this (if we credite thair lyis) to commit him self into the handis of traytors, and as you wald say, to conspire against him self? Is it credible that a man hauing such an opiniō of an vther, can repose such confidence in him? But contrarywise the Quene knew him for so good a man, that she was well assured it wald neuer enter into his hart to abuse any such auctority, & therefore

fore did permit the same to him expressly, to the
end to put him out of all doubt, vntil the time were
comen that he must be apprehended: euen or a-
bout the same tyme that the practise against Ro-
chell shuld haue bene put in execution, after the
which most haue succeeded a generall murther,
namely of those Lordis which now are in questio.
The King and the Quene lodged at Chantilly a-
hous of the Duke of Mommorency, wheras they
wold no Garde but his owen, thairby to declaire
what treuth they reposed in his honestie. Herby
it is easie to iudge whither he hath conspired, or
vthers haue conspired against him. As for the
Marshall de Cossie, who hath done so great ser-
uice in peace and war, in both forreyne and ciuill
warres, and for the Marshall de Anuill, who hath
continewed such shairp warres against the Prote-
stantis in Languedock, notwithstanding whatso-
euer occasions of discontentation that he had,
who only among all those which these two yea-
res haue continewed the warres, haue had many
Townes, who hath ventured his owen person, &
lost his brother in law Monsieur de Candal, who
now at the expresse comendement of his Maiestie,
seaketh but to pacifie his Regiment, for which
caus this snare is set for him, what may be alled-
ged against the both, or wherewith may they be
noted, sauig that they be Marshalls of France, cheif
officers of this Crowne, who according to their
dewties ought to put to thair handis that the Re-
alme may be gouerned by the to whome of righte
it appertaineth: and such as for the profit of thair
countrie (in case the King shuld dye) wold vse thair
authoritie: or what may be imputed to Monsieur
de Meru,

de Meru, Colonell generall of the Zuiters, who
hath assisted at euery ciuill battell with renowe,
eue at the seige of Rochel after the slaughter of S.
Barthelmew, where he was almost slaine, sauing
that he is the Sone of a Constable of France, & of
a famely which of long tyme hath gouerned the
affaires of the Realme to all mens contentation,
and yet neidis must be ruted out? But God be
praised that the Prince of Cōde, is escaped, whōe
the Quene will not permit to approch so neir to
the Crowne, also that the Marshall de Anuil had
warning in time of the embushment which wait-
ted for him: For assuredly I wote not what this
Medea wald haue done with these pure Princes,
neither do I dout, but we suld haue sene moste
pietifull & miserable sightes, also sum Sanct new
lie renowned through the slaughter of sum Ca-
tholicke gentilmen good freindes and faithfull
seruantis to those who presently at prisoners, &
peraduēture after them, she wald haue proceded
against vthers.

The threttie day of Maij the King dyed, the Charles the
nynth dyeth
Quene immediatly cometh to the Loure at Pa-
ris, with these Princes she causeth to grate vp the
windowes, to dam vp the gates, shet vp al entries, Quene Mo-
ther vltured
the Regimē
and to strengthen the Garde least these gētilmen
suld be gotten from hir, and to be breif, retayn-
eth the whole Regiment in hir owen handis, v-
surping the tytle of Regent. Iudge therefore
now by the end whereunto you knowe hir to be
arrived, and think vpon the treuth of such thing-
ges as I haue heirtofore discursed vpon: I
might here declair how by the Salike Lawes we-
men haue als smal right to rule and gouerne our
Kingdome,

Kingdome, as to pretend to any succession in the same, and that whensoever the contrary hath chanced, it hath bene onely through manifest abuse, wherof we haue at al tymes borne the smart: also that the publick affairis consist not in that this woman is called Quene, or beareth a crown, but in that for the most part, she ruleth all thingis after the appetite of such immoderate passiōs, as she is transported withall, and of the first person who by any subtiltie, through his indeuour, can attayne vnto hir fauour, as our histories do testifie.

But admit this womans cruelties tak place in this Kingdome, and that sum cursed examples do conclude a consequent, is it therefore lawfull to declare hir self Regent, or for hir to gouerne? Is thair no more to do, but to caus a secretary so to write vpon the pacquets? or is it sufficient to say with Pope Iohn the twenty and thre: Ego sum Papa? I pray you who hath Named the Quene mother Regent of France? was it the late King? It is possible that, as in his life tyme he spake but with his mouth, she sould now at his death caus him to nominate hir? I doubt not bot at his death at the last gaspe, through hir Importunacie, she wroung out of him sum yea, wherewith to colour hir presumption: And in deid it semeth by the declaration which she hath published, that she was the same day that he dye d, t y his mouth declared Regent, notwithstanding that, to abuse the people, she at the first blast so nameth hir self, becaus of his sicknes, at what tyme his disease waxed desperate, & him self drew into the last houre. But admit the late King had made a will (as in deid

deid he did not) had sealed it, that it had bene au-
tentically, and that in the same he had created his
Regent, had he any auctoritie so to do? Regences
eyther be thay, or euer wer thay geuin by will?

Heir is the point. Kingis are established of God,
as administrators of Realmes: During their liues
they do make their subiectis partakers in the ad-
ministrations of the same: The good men by a
lawfull counsell, after the opinion whereof they
do iudge of the capacitie & merites of each per-
son: The euell men, after the appetite of the pas-
sions either of them selues, either of such as do
posses them, preferring for the most part the euill
man before the good, and the able man before
him that is quite voyde of abilitie: yet is all this
sumwhat tolerable: But did euer any heir of a
King who at his death gaue the administration
of his Realme, which now him self was at the
point to lose, vnto any vther? either that one
brother at his decease culd appoynt a proctor for
his vther brother, who by right shuld succede him,
notwithstanding that in his life tyme he might a
lienate his goodis, as our Kingis may not, with-
out the consent of the estates? Or may a Bishop
Name a steward or Administrator of Church
goodis for his successor? either to be brieve, may
any man after his decease be administrator of a
Bishop, or King? This is plaine mockery, the kin-
gis them selues being prisoners, may not do it, be-
cause it is to be presumed that their wills are al-
wayis captiue with their personnes. Thus haue
we sene that neither King Iohn being prisoner in
England, neither Frances the first, being kept at
Madrill, did euer prouide for the administration

H. j.

of their

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M^{ss}. du
Bellay. lib. 3.

of thair Realmes. But during the imprisonment of King Iohn the estates did prouide, and in the tyme of King Frances, the regent whom he euen long time before his Captiuitie had nominated, was ready to be debarred. So long therefore as the late King liued, she had sum shew wherly to gouerne, and in case during his sicknes he had recommended vnto hir the regiment, then was it euen to his laste gaspe, after a maner to be borne withall: Neuertheles the late Kinges authoritie dyed and was buryed with him, his commandemētis losse thair force, and as by the death of the commander or Maister, all his commandementis and proxies ar abolished, and the authoritie to giue them is fallen to his successour, euen so is all the power which the King in his life time might seme to haue giuen to the Quene his Mother, at his death brought to nought and all his authoritie fallen to the King of Pole his heyre and successour. Doeth she thairfore to the behufe of our King which is in Poleland, tak vpon hir the Regency? In case she had sum blanke, for sum vther affaires, signed by his owen handis, then might she peraduenture, haue replenished the same with whatsoeuer she supposed moste fit to abuse the people, but euen the nixt day after the kingis deceis, I say, the thrid of Iune tuke she not full possession of that name? caused she not hir selfe openly to be declared Regent by vertew of these declaratory letters, a whole Moneth before our King culd haue sent to hir any commission for the Regency? And yet admit that he now had set hir confirmation heirin, what els may a man think, sauing that seing she had already vsurped it, he

it, he feared that if he should deny her, she wald worke him sum displeasure, euen as wise men who will seme to giue that thing freely vnto vthers, which them selues can not tak from the. Sum man might alledge that peradventure the Court of Parliament had granted or confirmed the same to hir.

But far lesse is the authoritie that that Court hath, and the contrary is to be sene, for it is euident that neuer Court of Parliament in this Realme had any auctoritie in the mater now in question. Yea that is more, thay haue no longer power, thay may no more iudge any person, thay can decyde no proces. To be breif, thay be quite abolished and dead, vntill such tyme as thay be newly confirmed into a body by the confirmatorie letters of the new King, and so be, as it wer reuiued, or in case of his long absence, by an assemblee of the Estates. There is no counsaller in the Court which will deny me this point, and hath not alwayes sene the experience heirof. How therefore may my Lordis of the Parliament confirme to hir any such authoritie, seing them selues haue none at all? Considering thay be no longer? and that with the King thay ar dead, and ca not be reuiued without the confirmatorie letters of the new King who is in Polonia, or of the Estates. To say it was at the instant request of my Lordes the Duke of Alençon or of the King of Nauarre, wer a shift simple anough to deceaue babes. It is knowen how thay be in bondage, any man whose body is imprisoned can not haue his speache fre, the grate, the Gardes, and the inclosures do in my defence beare witnes against hir.

The Parliament at the King's decree leaues his force.

Regency ge-
in in the
Kings ab-
sence by the
States.
The Anna-
les of King
John.

Mart. du
Bellay lib. 3.

But now our King is absent and far of, and can not peradventure so sone returne, and therefore it is to be feared least any thing might cum to confusion, vnles sum body had the gouernement of the affaires. I grant it, and our lawes haue very well prouyded againt all such inconueniencess: and that is thus, that as it hath alwayes bene vsed at the change or long absence of any King, the Estates suld dewly be assembled, and according to thair power suld declair a Regent, appointing him to his counfall, verteous and expert persons by whose aduise he suld rule and gouerne the realme: when King Iohn (saith our Histories) was taken before Poitiers and led captiue into England, Charles Duke of Normandy his eldest sone as being Lieutenant generall of King Iohn his Father, assembled the thre Estatis, to prouyde for the Regiment, during his Fathers captiuitie: who being cauled and lawfully assembled at Paris, declared and proclaymed him Regent of the Kingdom, and decreed that they suld vse his seales, wheras before the Estatis had so declared him, he neuer tooke vpon him other name, then lieutenant to the King his Father, as he was before his Fathers imprisonment, although he wer the eldest sone and was cum to age. Before that King Frances went toward the conquest of Millan, the yere that he was takē at the siege of Pauny, he had left and constituted his Mother Lady Lewis of Sauoy for Regent and gouerner: yet neuertheles the mightiest men in the Realme, the Lordis of the Parliament, and the Cietie of Paris did sollicit my Lord Charls the Duke of Vendosme to take the Regiment vpo him, as the next of the blood
which

which then he was as well by reason of the Non-
age of the Children of France as also by the ab-
sence of the Duke of Alencon and the reuolte of
the Duke of Bourbon promising to assist him in
the assembly of the Estates, and to the same end,
to deale with the rest of the Cieties in France to
the end to proclaime him Regent, as of right they
ought to do: and had he not bene more willing
to forsake his right, then in purchacing the same
to be caus of sum news, the Estatis wer determi-
ned to name him Regent and yet she was made
Regent before his taking, being of nothing so dā-
gerous a nature as our Quene mother is, neither
detained she the officers of the Crown in prison,
but was partly gouerned by their counsell. These
ar examples of our tyme and yet fresh in mynde:
who so sall mak any farther serche, as in the voi-
ages of our Kingis into the holy land, sal find the
same order at all tymes obserued: what therefore
letteth vs from doing the lyke? Ar our courages
quailed? be our hartes done? haue we abolished
all our ancient and commendable custumes? sall
we permit our Princes to be throwen downe frō
the places which to thē apperteineth? what speik
I of being throwen downe? nay rather oppressed
with sclanders, a womans prisioners, and in dan-
ger of thair liues? Will you indure it my Lords of
Paris, who wer the heires of so many French mē,
which so well haue maintained the right of their
Princes? sall your Cierie be a Fortresse to this ty-
ranny? sall the hous wherein you vsed so hono-
rably to ludge your King serue now as a straight
prison to thair blood? do you tary for one or v-
cher of these Forreyne strangers, to cum and set

fyre in your houses, spoile your fieldes, & destroy
 your farmes, thereby to force you to set at liberty
 these pure prisoners, this the blood of your Kin-
 gis, as thinking vnder cullour that they are with
 in your wallis, you to be maintainers of such bon-
 dage? Will you not be ashamed that they who in
 no point ar bound, shuld now cum & open your
 prisons to let your princes out: I can not beleue
 that you haue so far forgotte all care of your kin-
 gis as that you wald not se the in perfect liberty
 and in that authority which nature hath given the
 and thair vertu do deserue: but peradventure one
 of you loketh vpon another and waiteth who shal
 first set to his hand: yea but what feare you: a wo-
 man, a stranger, one whome all the world hateth
 one who hath no boldnes but by our cowardli-
 nes and is a murtherer only by our owen handis:
 if we leue hir, if they which detest hir gouernour
 do forsake hir, wher ar hir sergeants to lay hold
 of vs, hir iudges to condempne vs, or hir hangmen
 to execute vs: if they, which in hart do forsake hir
 wald in effect leue hir, where wer then hir armies
 to force vs, hir gard to skare vs, or hir coyne to
 content them: thair is no more to do but to ferme
 boldhe to tak hart, then will this autoritie, this
 boldnes, founded and mainteined vpon our sla-
 gishnes, and dastardlines, fal down of it self: wher-
 of I pray you, do you think? what can the reuenge
 of this woman bring vnto you, profit or los, good
 or euil, reestablishment or viter destruction: haue
 we alredy forgotten all the euillis which the Re-
 alme hath and still through hir doth abide? or
 think we that this new title hath in one night a-
 mended hir: doth not the clergy se howe thair
 goodis

goodis are burdened with tenthis, spoiled by such
 Italianis as she prouideth for, and set to sale vn- The Clas-
 der cullour of ciuill warris, thought in deid to sa- sye.
 tiffy to hir vnprofitable expēses, wherein after the
 maner of hir great Oncle Pope Leo she deliteth
 to much? perceueth not the nobilitie, how thair The Nobl-
 gondisar in maner wasted, them selues through lie.
 warres and murders extinguished and spoiled
 of thair honoris & dignities, to the end with the
 same for to indew vnworthy and strange persōs,
 marck they not also wherupō do tend thele good
 ly propositions of taking from Gentlemen the
 offices of iustices, of serching thair demains, the
 rightis of .he thrid and the danger of Impositi-
 ons vpō baptisme, mariages, and such lyke, which
 all had bene already agreed and concluded vpon,
 had not the protestantis bene, against whome
 she hath sought for a tyme to intertaine vs: do
 not the commounis consider of the burdenis of
 taxes, lones or such lyke whiche daylie are layde
 vpon thair owen neckis for the buylding of vn- The Com-
 profitable housis, for the enriching of strangers munaluer.
 with wonderfull giftes, for the making of a lytle
 Raskall de Gondy one of the richest Lordes in
 France? And who knoweth not that all these
 mischeifis haue proceeded onely from hir who
 had gotten suche possession of the late King, by
 the honest deuises afore rehearsed, that he go-
 uerned no more then in his Minoritie, and are
 we yet so farre abused as to thincke that she will
 amend?

You se how she entered into this Regencye,
 namely ouer the wall, and by the Wyndowe

H. iiii.

lyke

The Clarye.

The Nobles.

lyke to a theif, neither luke we that she suld do
 vther then robbe and spoyle: you se already how
 she beginneth: She hath so wel mollified two or
 thre of the Clarye, that for Inuy one at the vther
 thay haue granted to hir an excessiue some which
 can not be payed without exceeding oppressio of
 all Ecclesiasticall persons, already heirtofore suf-
 ficiently burdened, and in the meane tyme it is
 the pure incumbent who hath interest, the silly
 Curate or the Bishop which simply is resident in
 his diocese, but not my Lord the Cardinall, the
 Courtisan Bishop or Abbot, who knoweth how
 to be recompensed, and shall haue the first Abbay
 that falleth, who semeth liberal of his owne purse,
 wherby to haue occasion so to be of vther mens.
 She hath already procured the deathis of a hun-
 dredth gentlemen of both Religions, and yet to hir
 power contineweth the same order, in steid that
 wayting the cūming of our King out of Polelād
 she shuld stay all weapons: For, whome do thay
 thinke to serue, who in hir behalf do command,
 or those men which do obey them? To the king?
 I can not tell that, neither know I, when he cū-
 meth, whither they salbe disaduowed, for lea-
 ding his subiectis to the slaughter without his
 knowledge. I know not whither the bloods &
 liues of a thousand the Kingis subiectis, whome
 aswell of the one part, as of the vther, at the ap-
 pertye of a woman, destitute of all lawfull au-
 thoritie, they haue caused to dye, shall one day yet
 be redemanded at thair handis. It is a thinge
 which hath in tyme past bene sene, and yet in
 this case might peraduētūre once more be soght
 for. But wherefore thincke you that not long
 since

since she caused to behead the County of Montgommery being a prisoner of warre (for all men know that the death of the late King Henry was not to be imputed to him) vnles it wer partly to satisfie hir végeable appetite, partly also to moue the Protestantis to vse the lyke courtesie toward the Catholicke Lordes , in case any do fall into thair handis? But what may I say in this point, that she hath bene so far past thame, so vniust, so cruell, and so vnnaturall , as for to minister both the ordinary and extraordinary rack , vnto the said County , to the end to compell him to confes that my Lord the Duke caused him to enter into the feild , thereby seaking to bring the said pure Prince more and more into hatred? Which mater neuertheles, euen at the point of death, he protested to be most fals , affirming that he tóke weapon only for the recouery of his goodes and the libertie of his Religion. Culd there haue bene any more wicked inuention deuised? Was it not a signe of als small account of the lyfe and honour of hir Sone, as of the simplest or meanest Protestant in France. And to returne to our matter , as touching the thríde estate, se you not at which end she beginneth, seaking euen at hir cúming in , to tak vp the rentes of the towne hous of Paris? Is there any good hous (I speak not of Paris only) but almost throughout all France, which therein hath not great interest? In the meane tyme vnder the shaddow of thre or four persons to whome she will giue sixe tymes more then their interest) who hath granted it to hir, all the Realme must therin be ordered at hir pleasure. And to what end tendeth all this? euen to

finde

The Com-
naltie.

find meanes to keip still our Princes and Lordes
in prison, against whom soeuer sould endeavour to
deliuer them, to plant good garrisons in the for-
teresses which lately she maid to be builded with-
in the cities, to the end, whatsoeuer she did none
sould presume once to tell hir therefore, and to
dispose of our liues and goodis as she shall thinke
good. To be breif, she maketh vs to pay for the
haulte wherin she pretendeth heirafter to hang
vs: & therefore let vs seik from hir no vther thing
then euell vpon euell, and destruction vpon dis-
truction: for she neuer either did, either will do
vtherwise. So long as she hath to do in the Regi-
ment, althoight our King sould cum, euin to mo-
row, out of Polonia, yet shall we haue nothing but
euill. The hoggeshed may wel be chaged but the
wine wil still be all one: For she can (if a man luke
not narrowly to hir) so farre abuse his lenity, and
vsurpe his auctority as to bend the same after hir
wonted maner. For the nature of this woman is
alwayis to be doing euell: and this much more I
say, that neuer woman who yet gouerned our Re-
alme, did breid more misheif. I will not heire repeat
the mostrous vices both of hir self and of vthers:
For that wald require a seuerall volume: I speake
only of thair gouernment. Fredegonde, Brunehault,
Plectinde, and Ludith, did so long as they
liued, kindle and maintaine ciuill warris in this
Realme, thereby to dispatch the nobility, setting
iellouzy betwene the Father and the sone, the bro-
ther and the brother, to the end during thair dis-
cordis to intertayne them selues. Blanch did vs-
surpe the protectorshippe of the King S. Lewes
being betwene eleuin and twelue years of age,
wherby

Wemens per-
nicious Go-
uernment in
France.

The annales
of France
Otto Frising
in the Chro.

which least the Estatist sould take from hir, she
 moued the Catholickes to areare warre against
 the Albigenes, whome the Pope had pronoun-
 ced Heretikes: Notwithstanding sone after all
 men meruelled to beholde moste parte of the no-
 bles of the Realme either to be Albigenes or
 ellis to haue sum intelligence with them, as she
 went about to make the worlde beleue, and in
 deid vnder this pretence she dispatched hir han-
 dis of them all, and when the King hir sonne
 came to his Maioritie, after she had most rigo-
 rously kept him vnder, she found meanes to re-
 maine only Regent, by sending him toward the
 conquest of the holy land. This is the lessoun
 which our Quene hath learned of hir, as now
 we may manytestly persauce. She wald perswade
 vs that we be all Protestantis. She also may well
 affirme that she hath chosen hir for a Paterne in
 hir forme of Regiment.

In case the Estatist of this Realme had not pre-
 uented the shameles bouldnes of Isabell of Ba-
 tiere the wyfe of Charles the sixt, and sent hir
 to dresse hir Gardens at Tours, she wald in no
 wise haue degenerated from the nature of the
 rest, as was euident be hir beginningis. The La-
 dy of Beauiew at what time the Estatist of Tow-
 ris had commended to hir the charge ouer the
 person of Charles the eight hir brother, deter-
 mined to intrude hir self into the Regiment, and
 conceaued such a Ielousie against the Duke of
 Orleans, that she went about to lay houlde of
 him, whereby he fell in such dispaire, that he fled
 whether so euer he might: This Duke was he
 who afterward was named Lewes the twelfth,
 and

of Aimo:
 lib. c.
 The Lord of
 Louwill.

Enguerrans
 of Montre-
 uell in the
 Annales of
 France.

and surnamed, the Father of the people, one of the best Princes that euer liued, to whom at that tyme, the Nobilitie profered the Regency.

Againe of freshe remembrance, I speake of the tyme of Frances the first, who during his voyage vnto Italy, left the Lady Lewes of Sauoy, his mother Regēt, was it not the caus of the losse of Milan whiche before had bene wyn with the blood of so many Frenchmen, when as she caused Semblancay (who for that deid was put to death) to delyuer vnto hir the four hundreth thousand Crownes which by him the King sent to the lord of Lautrec, who, his army being for want of payment broken, was compelled quite to forsake all?

Whereas also Brunehault, by most mens opinions, semeth to haue gotten the victorie of wickednes aboue all vthers, and that our Historiographers speaking of Fredegond do name hir, the malice of the world nixt vnto Brunehault, yet semeth it, by conferring the dealings of this woman, that all hir lyfe tyme, she hath sought no vther thē to cary away the victory aboue the said Brunehault, as may plainly be sene in case any man will confer the doinges of the one with the vther. Brunehault by byrth was an Spanyard: Katherine is an Italien and Florentyne, bothe strangers, who bare no naturall affection towards the Kingdome: But the Italien is able to abuse the Spanyard, and the Florentyne all vther Italiens.

Brunehault was daughter of Achanage King of Spaine by reason whereof she shuld loue the Nobilitie: Katherine is the daughter of Laurence de Medicis.

The comparison of Brunehault with Katherine.

Reid worde for word the lyfe of Brunehault in our Annales.

de Medicis, a famely growen vp through Marchandice and vsury, suche a one as can not loue the Nobilitie, and alwayes haue sought the ruining out of the same. A Sibille (saith our Histories) Prophefied that a Frog suld cū out of Spain which suld bring to death our Kingis and Princes, and finally suld be torne with horses, you haue red the good'y prognostications, cōcerning Katherines natiuitie which forshewed that she suld bring to destruction, the place whither she suld be married, and the seuerall counsallis giuen thereupon. Brunchault was the daughter of an Arian and in Arianisme instructed and brought vp. Katherine being of the race of an Atheist, and nourished in Atheisme, hath replenished the Realme, but specially the Court with Atheistes. Better it is to erre in one Religion, then to haue none at all, and to fayle in one Artickle, then in all the Beleif.

Brunchault was maryed to Sigebert, King of Merz, through the counsal of Godowine Maire of the Pallace, who fetched hir out of Spaine, & did to hir all the honour that he culd: in recompence whereof she did afterward put him to death: Katherine being maryed to good King Henry at that tyme Duke of Orleance, hath for the most part hated all hir benefactoures.

She culd not paciently bruke the Constables lyfe, who was the cheif author of hir Mariage, and of all the honour which euer befell hir, who also most honorably receaued hir, euen in the borders of the Realme.

She hath secretly procured the poysoning of the Cardinall of Chastillon, notwithstanding he only in

only in a maner stayed hir from being sent home into Italye, and cured hir of hir sicknes at Reims in Champagne: where the Physicians had geuin hir ouer: Finally she hath procured the murdering of the Admirall, who moued the Estates to grant vnto hir the whole Regiment.

Brunchault persauing that hir Sonne Childebert after his Fathers deceis began to smell out hir pernicious couſallis, poysoned him in a bath, whereby she might obteyne the gouernment of the Realme, vnder the pretence of the minoritye of Theodebert and Theodorick the sonnes of hir said Sonne Childebert, of whome the one was King of Mets and Auſtraſie, and the vther of Orleance: Katherine in hir first yeares caused to poyson my Lord Frances the Dolphine, the elder brother of hir hulband Henry, wherby he might draw neir to the Crowne: She led the late King of Nauarre to the slaughter, becaus that to him iustly apperteyned the Regiment of this Kingdome: and least I shuld enter into such presumptions as I coulde alledge concerning the death of the last King, she openly at this present keipeith my Lord the Duke hir Sonne, and the King of Nauarre hir Sonne in law, prisoners, the better thereby to enioye the Regency, neither know I whether they had yet liued, had not the Prince of Conde whom she wald not permit to approach so neir the succession, saued him self out of hir handes.

Brunchault, by reason of hir most private affaires, loued one Proclide a Romaine, or Lûbard, a man of base calling and of no value: him she honoured with the cheif offices of the Realme, which

which by all right appertaineth to the Nobillities him did she enriche with taxes, subsidies, and exactions whiche she layeth vpon the commons, wherby of a pure rascall she hath maid him duke of a Duchie bought for hir ready money. This Katherine vpon lyke occasions, loueth one Gōdy a Florētyne, extract out of the race of Marchādes, the Sonne of a Banquer, whose Father twise played the Banquerout at Lions: and of one who firste was a Courtisan, but in hir age became an Baude in the said Cietie of Lions. This man hath bene knowen to follow a Thesaurars Mule, afterward he became the Clark of a Commissarie for victuallis to the Campe at Amiens: shortly after he was maid Maister of the Kingis Wardrobe, and now we may se him (though not for any good seruice to the Realme) Couūty de Rhets, and almost only Marshall of France.

Brunchault was gouerned by hir Proclide, & could neuer exalt him heigh enough to hir mynd, but continually feared least the mighty men in the kingdome wold withstand hir, and therefore she dispatched Ratirus and Egira, two great lordes, and moued warre betwene Theodorick King of Orleans whome she gouerned after hir owen fantasie, and Clothair King of Paris, expressly, (saith our Historie) to mak away the mighty, and principally Berthonault, Mayre of the Pallace, an ancient and graue Knight, who was slaine in a battall foughten at the Riuer of Estampes, after whose death she maid hir Proclide Mayre of the sayde Pallace: Katherine the easilier with hir Gondy, to gouerne alone, fearing lest the Nobilitie, sould resist hir so excessive exalting of him, founded

founded only vpon a womans vnreasonable mo-
 tion, kindeleth ciuill warres in this Realme, set-
 teth brethren and Neighboures one against an
 other, yea she proceedeth so far, as in short time to
 dispatche the King of Nauarre, being the first
 Prince of the blood, hauing attayned to his Ma-
 ioritie: of Anna de Mommorency Constable of
 France, of the Duke of Guise great maister, all
 thre Peiris of France: of the Marshall of S. An-
 dre, and of infinite other Lordis and gentlemen,
 sum by poyson and sum by warre, wheteby this
 pure rascall, now remayneth in maner all only a-
 bout hir, ordering all thingis after his owen plea-
 sure. Theodebert King of Metz was in the begin-
 ning Brunehaults best sone, hir best beloued, to
 whome she gaue the greatest part of his late Fa-
 thers treasures: but sone afterward he perceuing
 hir driftis chased hir out of his Realme, whereby
 with hir Proclide, she was driuen to retire vnto
 hir vther back child Theodoric King of Orleace,
 whose master of the palais she maid hir Proclide:
 The Protestantis, as you se, wer in the beginning
 the Kingis good subiectis, this good ladies best fa-
 uoristes, and the most welcum: they smel out hir
 subtilties and wil no longer haue to do with hir,
 whereupon she beginneth to counterfeat all the
 Catholick. Gouverning vs after the counsal of hir
 Gondy as best pleseth him. Proclaid can not for-
 get his nature, but burdeneth the people with
 taxes and impostis, & bringeth downe the Prin-
 ces and Lordis of Theodoricks Kingdome by all
 meanes, and thereby getteth the displeasure of all
 men: Gondy dayly inuenteth new meanes how
 to oppres the people, committeth all the aydis of
 France

France into the handis of Italian Peagers and galli-
bellers, deuydeth this Realme among his lyke co-
equallis, and finally waxeth so presumptuous,
vpon the support of this woman, who hateth the
Princes of the blood to death, that he will com-
mand them, euen to his Clokebagge, making of
them his Varlers. But what cumeth heirof: The
Princes and Lordis of the Realme of Orleans cō-
teining almost the thrid part of France begin to
be weary heirof, and to se to them selues.

Brunchault to the end to turne thair myndes
and to occupy them vtherwise, and so still to dis-
patche hir self of sum one of them, through Pro-
clides counsell, moueth warre betuix hir two
backe Sonnes, Theodebert and Theodoricke, by
making the pure Theodorick (whome then she
gouerned) to beleue that Theodebert who be-
fore had bene hir good Chylde, was a bastard and
the Sonne of a concubine.

Our Princes and great Lordis of the Realme
begin already to smell that sumthing was moti-
oned against them, and our good Quene feared
greatly lest thay suld revnite them selues togid-
der, whereby to ouerthrowe the greatnes which
Gōdy sought in thair fallis, & thairfore thought
it meit to set them on work, lest thay suld haue
any leysure to think thair of: heirupō she perswa-
deth vs Catholickes (who to our costes beleue
hir) that the Protestantis (which before wer hir
best beloued) ar vnfaithfull subiectis to the king,
that thay be Rebellis, that thay must be driuen
out at the dures as bastardis and illegitimate, and
thus by such subtilties, the warre is renewed and
we slay our brethren, freindis, and kinsfolkes, &

do dye our selues.

After much blood shed at Brunchaultes desire, the Lordis of the Realme of Orleans (where she ruleth in the Name of Theodoricke) do returne to thair first opinion, counsalling the King to conclude peace with his brother, proponing to him the vniustice of the warre, and the intent for the which most fitly it was put in his head. The King of him self is sufficiently beaten thereto, but the Quene will in no wise harken to the, and hir Proclide ioyneth against it, for that the peace and concord of the two brethren was capitall enemy to his greatnes, wherein by thair only discord he was vpholden. Finally thairfore, they seing him the only hinderer of thair good counsell, by a common consent, went into his Tent & slew him, and then by thair exhortations so laboured King Theodorick, that he agreed with his brother. The cheif Lordes of our Realme, seing how small account was maid of the venturing of their liues, namely that thay wer, wherefouer any were slaine in the Ciuill warres, but scoffed and laughed at: also that the sought to murder them one with an vther amōg the Protestants, wer for the most part resolved to bestow thair paines for the reestablisshing of the cōmon peace, and neuer to reenter into the Ciuill warres wherein she pretended to get an end of them: but were it thay had loist parte of thair Frenche Magnanimitie, or that by a more gentle meanes thay hoped to remedy these mischeifis: thay neuer proceded so farre, as to slay this youth, notwithstanding thay knew him the cheif counsaller of these Ciuill warres, disloyalties, treasons, & murders,

murthers, which are for the ruting of them out,
practised.

Brunchaut a woman of an vnquyet mynde,
will at what price soeuer it be, be reuenged of
hir freindis death, and perfeweth the principall
authors thairof, Vtile and Bolsus euen to the
death. This reuenge might in sum case haue
bene tollerable, becaus thay slew hir freind, whoe
she loued so well: but not so content, she renew-
ed the warre againe betuix hir two backe Sonnes
the two brethren, and thair Realmes of Merz &
Orleance, and found meanes againe to put into
Theodorick King of Orleance his head, that still
she bare this ancient sclander, that his brother
Theodebert was a bastard the Sonne of a concu-
bine: Se how in this point our Katherine is far
worse: For she hath caused to murther and slay
thousandis of our pure brethren vnder cullour
of the Mariage of hir owen daughter. I meane
infinite gentilmen Protestantis, and many vthers
of all degreis, and one among an vther wald haue
slaine the cheif of vs, as the Lordes of Mommo-
rencey, the Marshall de Cosse and vthers, and vn-
der this pretence sought to drine the Lordes of
Guise from the Court, as authors of al mischeif:
We haue pacietyly borne all, we haue in no point
troubled hir or hir Gondy, we seik only to liue in
rest: And se: becaus we will no longer dippe our
blades with hir in our brothers blood, she per-
seweth vs to death, as much as euer she persewed
them, she layeth a thousand embushes, she ap-
pointeth a thousand murthers, and yet after all
these mischeites, she stil remaineth in so good
credite with sum of vs. I worte not by what ac-

curfed fate) that ſhe cauſeth vs to reenter into warres, one againſt an other, in the ſame pretēce, as before, namely vnder cullour of Religion wherewith ſhe neither is, neither was once touched. And what will be the end heirof, vnto God doth ſhortly render to vs our myndes and vnderſtanding, is yet vncertaine.

Before this ſport was done, Theodorick King of Orleans, chaſed his brother Theodebert King of Metz out of his Realme, as a baſtard which he affirmed him to be, he heweth in peces almoſt all his brothers Nobilitie, he ſhetteth vp his brother within Cullein, yea he departeth not before he hath his head, and bringeth his Children to Brühault who ſlayeth them, ſcarce hath he accompliſhed all this, but that he repenteth, feilling a wonderfull remors in his conſcience: It happeneth that he is deſirous to Mary his late brothers daughter, who only remained, and thinketh this Mariage lawfull, becauſe (ſayth the hiftorie) he accounted hir as a baſtards daughter, but Brühault, who for a time had vſed this pretēce, whereby to procure them to ſlay one an other, and before to the end he might forſake his firſt wife, had furniſhed him of Cōcubines, doeth begin to feare that, if he once fancieth this woman, he will expel hir from the gouernment, and ſheweth him, that with a ſafe conſcience he may not do it, becauſe ſhe is his brothers daughter. Heir although to late, he perceueth the wickednes of this woman. Oh thou accuſed woman (ſaith he) thou haſt maid me kill my brother, thou haſt cauſed me to root out his race, and afore touldeſt me that he was nothing to me. To ſmall purpoſe was it for
this

prince to treat, for sone after she caused to mini-
 ster to him poyson, wherof he dyed: As katherines
 motion we haue sufficiently slaine our brethern,
 shortly thair will be no more left, we haue sacri-
 fised them to Brunchault by thousandis, & dayly
 sum of vs do bring in more to the slaughter. We
 all sulde evidently know that, in that she telleth vs
 they be Bastardis, and be euill subiectis to the
 Crowne, is but forged and inuented purposely to
 mak vs one to slay an other. Yea, God be than-
 ked, we for the most part do resonably weil begin
 to seill remorse in our consciences, for so many
 murthers, cruelties, and slaughters which we
 haue tollerated, and whereunto sum of vs haue
 set to our handis: already also seing we can not
 raise them vp againe, we do at the least, indeuour
 to keip and preserue those few which be left. But
 what doeth our Brunchault now? Se you not how
 she powreth forth poyson to hir vther sone? per-
 ceeyus you not how she draweth hir knife to cut
 our throatis? What are the Catholicke gentlemē
 whome dayly she putteth to death? What be the
 Lordis of Mommorancy, the Marshall de Cosse,
 and vther Catholicke Lordis, whom to the death
 she perseweth? Is not the cheif among vs whome
 she will slay, thairby the better to rule vs all out
 afterward? So you not that, all one to hir is the
 lawfull and the bastard? the Catholicke and the
 Protestant? that she loueth neither the one nei-
 ther the other? that she seemed to love the one
 vntill he had slaine his brother, & afterward hath
 purchased his death? And to what end? Only
 to rule alone after hir owen appetite: which be-
 fore she culd not, becaus we all knew hir intents,

Brunchaunt hath dispatched hir two backe
 Sonnes, geuing the one to vnderstand that the
 yther was a bastard.

The Nobilitie of both Realmes for the moste
 part is extinguished: now, wheras before she vsed
 the cullour of bastardynes to destroy the both,
 hir self wil reule thair Realmes, as Turrice of the
 bastardis of hir Sonne Theodoricke whome she
 hath poysoned, and therefrom will exclude Clo-
 tair King of Paris the nixt heyre to whome the
 right of these Realmes doeth appertaine: But
 she knoweth that the Lordis of the countrie wil
 indeuour to mainteyne him in his right to whome
 it appertaineth, also that one Garnier who then
 was Maister of the Pallace, woulde neuer permit
 the Regency so vnlawfully vsurped to remaine
 vnto hir: wherefore she maketh as she wald tra-
 uaille in the affaires of the Realme, and in the
 meane tyme wryteth to one of hir partakers na-
 med Albon, to murder the said Garnier: But
 as God wald, Albon after the reading of Brunes-
 haunts letters, tore them and the peices being
 gaddered againe togidder, wer brought vnto Gar-
 nier, who saued him self so well as he might, &
 ayded Clothair the lawfull Inheritor to the pos-
 session of the Kingdome to him appertayning.

What doeth our Katherine? how step by
 step she folloeth this patern and example of all
 mischiefe: Nay marke how in parte she doeth sur-
 mount hir. The King hir Sonne is at the point
 of death. It semeth the King of Poleland can
 not cum tyme anough aswell by reason of his sic-
 knesse, as through the longnes of the way:
 She will in no wise forsake the gouernment, but
 by sum extraordinary means whatsoeuer, will

still keip it in hir owen handes.

If she assembleth the estates that thay may proude, she knoweth thay haue to euill an opinion of hir, and according to equitie, thay will comit the same to my Lord the Duke, as next of the blood and the late Kingis Lieutenant generall. Hauing thairfore subtilly diffamed, & through hir sclanders maid him odious to all men, she imprisoneth him and the King of Nauarre, seiking meanes also to intrap the Prince of Conde: and for that she knoweth that the cheif officers of the Crowne can not in hart allow these hir most mischeuous dealingis, and douteth that thay will indeuour to delyuer the Princes out of hir handis, she commandeth the Lordis of Ioyeuse, Maugeron, and Furquenaux, to sease vpon the Marshall de Anuill, either dead or in lyfe, whilest that she employeth him for the pacifying of his gouernment. Euen at the same instant that thay suld haue dispatched this mater, she seased vpon the Lordis of Mommorency and Cosse: And the better to bring them into hatred, she published that thay had conspired. But as it was Gods will that the interprise against the Marshall de Anuill, was in tyme discouered, eue so (if it please him) she shall not be able to practise hir wicked intent against the rest.

To what end is Brunehault, after so many cruelties, treasons, parricides, and vngodlynes cum Clothair maigre hir might attaineth the Croune; all the Estates (as it were) vpon thair shoulders, do cary him to his Throne.

Brunehaultes proces is openly maid by the assembly of the Estates: and finally by all mens

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consent,

consent, euerie one pronouncing the sentence which in his harte he had giuen against hir long before, she is drawin at a horse tayle, euen vntill she finished hir wicked life, and so was torne in peces. Now let euery man iudge what sentence our Katherine deserueth, who in one daye hath caused to murder more men, wemen and children, then did Brunchault in al hir warres. I dare assure my selfe that thair is no man who in harte giueth not more sharp Iudgement against hir, then this is: But I do protest that I desire vengeance against hir, of none but God, vnto whome only it appertayneth, who at his appointed time, can chastise hir for such euillis as she hath committed against both the common wealth, and all vs particularly: Only I beseeche that Clothair may be receiued to his right, that our King may lawfully raigne, that our Princes and Lordes may be deliuered out of hir bloudy handis, and that he to whome the Regiment doth appertaine may be therein established, to the end he may remeid such euillis as already she hath committed, and preuent all those that be behind.

To this so holy and laudable an enterprise, the Royall race, my Lordis the Princes of the blood, out of which you be extraight, do inuite you. Suffer therefore no longer the lifes of these pure Princes, to remayne at hir discretion, who doeth bath hir self in your blood: Incur not this dishonor, that strangers, who in no respect do belong to them, shuld shew the selues more bent to thair deliuerance then you.

Vnto this worke, ye Lordis and French gentlemen, your duties and honours do call you: you
bear

beare not armes for nothing: they ought to tend to the health of your Princes, your countrey, & your selues. Permit not therefore your Princes to be esclauies, neither the cheif officers of this Crowne, for thair only good will which all men do knowe that thay beare to the conseruation thairof, be in danger of thair liues: neither your selues daylie to be put furth to the death for the satiffying of the vengeable appetite of one woman. Let vs acknowledge that, notwithstanding any difference of Religion among vs, yet we be all Frenchemen, the lawfull Children of one only countrie, borne in one Realme; and subiect to one Kinn: and let Brunchault no longer put into our heades, to the end we may one day an other, that our brethren be bastardis, illegitimate, and no trew Frenchmen: and so as you se, in the end bring vs all to death one after another.

Let vs therefore all marche togidder, with one hart and peace: all I say, of all Estates and conditions, Gentilmen, Burgeses, and Peasantes: and constraîne hit to restore our Princes and Lordis to libertie. Vnto you my Lordis of Paris is presented the occasion of attayning to this honour: let thairfore no man preuent you.

Your Cietie is the head of this Realme, and the seate of our Kingis and Princes: will you thairfore suffer them to be prisoners within your wallis? Shall thay who so long haue mainteyned your liberties, be now kept in Captiuitie, in any place where you be able to delyuer them? Shall Brunchault haue recourse to you, and Clothair remaine prisoner? I dare say you will permit no

sucho

suche thing. God through his singulare prouy-
 dence, hath caused hir to bring them into a place
 of Sanctuarie, when neuertheles she thought to
 bring them to prison: For I know well, you will
 remember your auncient renoune, you will tak
 your weapons, you will go straight to the prison
 wherein she holdeth them, and you will snatch
 them out of the handis of this accursed Brune-
 harr. Also, that no inclosure, wall, gate, or garde
 shall hinder or slacken this interprise, worthe of
 true Frenchmen and auncient citizens of Paris.
 Thus shall these pure Princes acknowledge thair
 lues of you: you shall for ever bind this Realme
 to your Cietie. All Christendome shall commed
 or the singular affection which you do beare to
 the blood of your Kingis: and the posterie-
 tie shall perpetually celebrate so famous, and
 commendable and holy a deid,
 being aboue all vther, most
 worthy of euerlasting
 memorie.

FINIS.



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